Los Angeles Times

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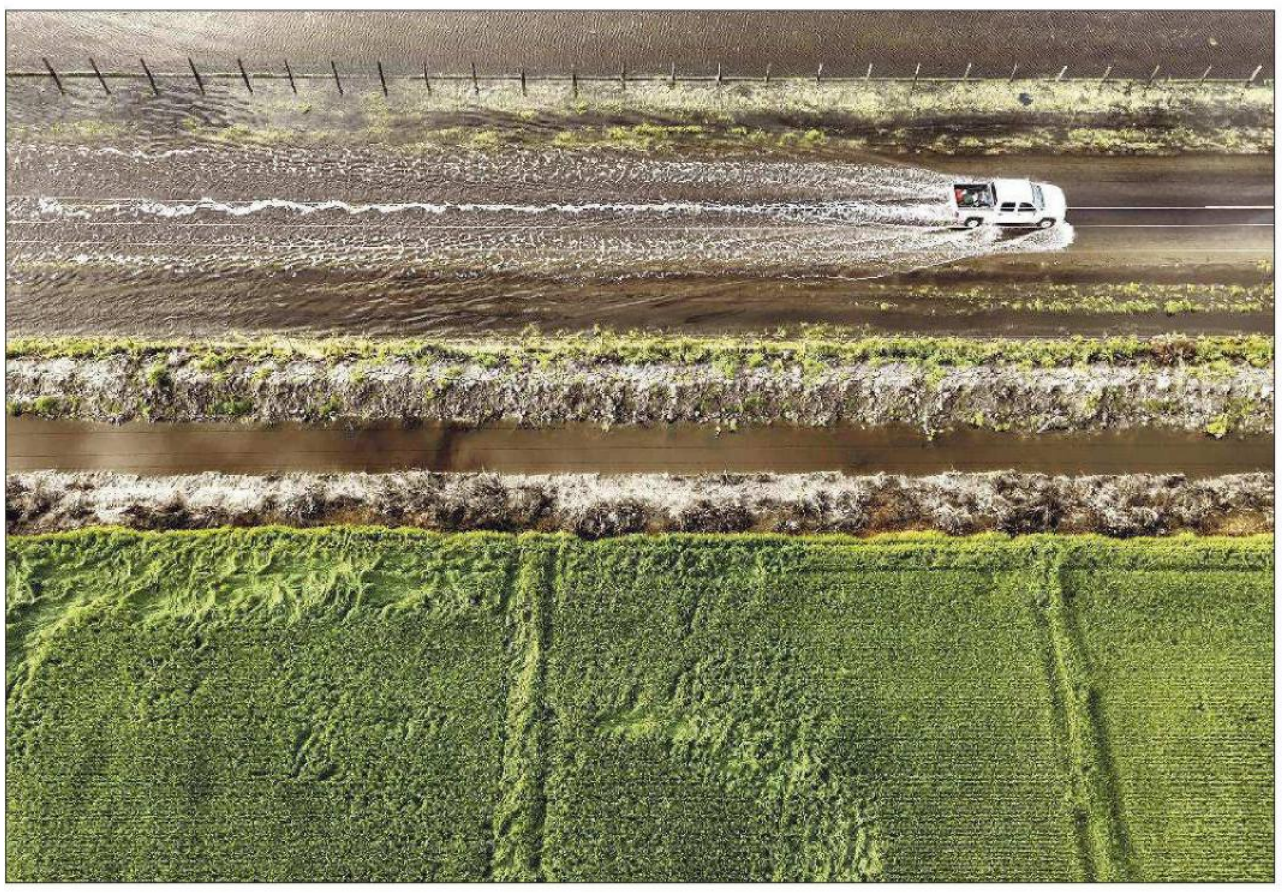


ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

THE FLOODED Garces Highway in the San Joaquin Valley last month. The Tulare Lake Basin and other Central Valley areas that have seen storm flooding face the same threat from snow runoff and dam releases.

Flood risk from snowmelt could last for months

State officials keep watch for warming temps, reveal where greatest threat is.

BY HAYLEY SMITH

After a relentless three months of heavy rain and snow, California is facing yet another environmental threat — sunny skies and balmy weather.

That's right, after announcing the deepest snowpack in decades, state officials are warning that runoff from melting snow will send torrents of water rushing from the peaks of the Sierra Nevada to the foothills and valleys thousands of feet below.

Of particular concern is the Tulare Lake Basin and other areas of the Central Valley that have already seen storm flooding this year and remain in the path of snow runoff and releases from nearby dams. Major waterways such as the San Joaquin River, and tributaries, will see treacherous conditions as well.

"If you're recreating in rivers and streams, the water is going to be cold and high and fast," said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources. "Very, very dangerous."

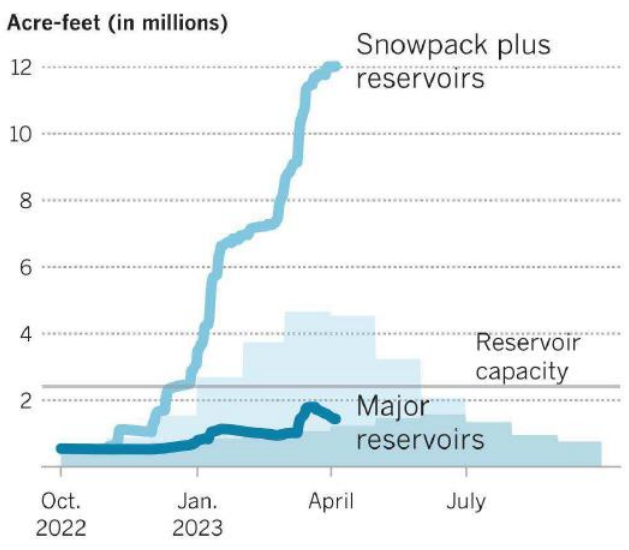
Temperatures are forecast to rise into the 80s in the Central Valley in the coming days, which could produce some snowmelt. But experts say the biggest threat will probably not arrive until temperatures reach the 90s for an extended period of time.

"That's when you can expect that those flows are going to start really picking up," said Jessica Chiari, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Hanford. "That's usually not likely in April — it's usually going to be late summer when that starts. Usually June is when we start getting

[See **Snowmelt,** A9]

Southern Sierra snowpack exceeds local reservoir capacity

Rapid snowmelt could overtop the reservoirs in the Tulare Lake region, causing flooding.



Reservoirs include Millerton, Isabella, Pine Flat, Success and Terminus. Shaded areas show normal snowpack-plus-reservoir and reservoir levels, calculated as a 30-year average between 1990 and 2020. Data as of April 4.

California Department of Water Resources; Times analysis

SEAN GREENE Los Angeles Times

Taiwan leader's arrival inflames divide among local immigrants

Meeting with House Speaker McCarthy draws opposing groups of demonstrators.

BY JEONG PARK, SUMMER LIN AND ANH DO

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

POLICE break up a clash between supporters of Taiwan and of China as the island's president arrived at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

As a highly anticipated meeting took place between Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Nancy Yingli Son shouted into a microphone.

"Taiwan is China's territory! Taiwan is part of China!" she declared in Mandarin outside the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, clutching a Chinese flag and a U.S. flag.

Elsewhere among the hundreds who had gathered to support Tsai or protest her, drummers pounded and people chanted, "*Jiayou*, Taiwan!" — Go, Taiwan.

Tsai's meeting with McCarthy and other Congress members on Wednesday has drawn condemnation and threats of retaliation from Chinese officials who, like Son, believe that Taiwan, a self-governing democracy, is a breakaway region that rightfully belongs to Beijing.

Among local immigrants, the meeting has intensified passions across an intractable ideological divide, as U.S.-China relations have deteriorated and China's threat to take Taiwan by force if necessary seems increasingly real.

"I have a message to send to the world: America's government must support China," said Son, 62, a para-

[See **Divide,** A4]

Dueling superpower visits

Trips to California and China by island's president and predecessor encapsulate choices facing Taipei

BY STEPHANIE YANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan — In Southern California, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen met with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Wednesday in a show of the strength of relations between Taipei and Washington.

On the other side of the world, Tsai's predecessor, Ma Ying-jeou, was in China on his own symbolic sojourn, touting instead the historic ties between Taiwan and the mainland.

The simultaneous visits to rival superpowers by Taiwanese presidents past and present underscore the increasing precariousness of peace on the democratically ruled island, and the uncertain path to maintaining it as relations among China, the U.S. and Taiwan have grown strained.

Those frictions have raised the stakes for Taiwan's presidential election next year, in which Tsai will not be running for reelection and voters are expected to prioritize how to deal with tensions across the Taiwan Strait. As representatives of the island's two main political parties, Tsai and Ma represent opposing approaches to upholding the status quo — whether to lean more toward Washington or Beijing, respectively.

"Ma Ying-jeou and Tsai

[See **Taiwan,** A4]

Rallying effect for Trump in GOP

Lake and Greene treat his indictment as call to action while raising stature with the base.

BY ERIN B. LOGAN AND ARIT JOHN

PALM BEACH, Fla. — As supporters awaited former President Trump at Mar-a-Lago after his Tuesday arraignment, Kari Lake walked into a ballroom of people cheering and chanting her name.

The defeated Arizona gubernatorial candidate's appearance at Trump's Florida estate came as no surprise. Lake has emerged as one of the biggest political stars of Trump's Republican Party and one of the loudest voices of the election denialism movement, which was sparked by the former president's failed 2020 bid.

But since Trump's indictment by a New York grand jury on charges related to the alleged cover-up of a 2016 hush money payment, far-right figures like Lake appear to be treating the moment as a clarion call to action for GOP politicians with ambitions for higher office.

As the former president's legal troubles grow, Lake and other well-known Trump allies have rushed to his defense, seizing the moment to burnish their reputations as true believers while further raising their stature among the base, seemingly with the hope of being named Trump's vice presidential pick in 2024.

Speaking to reporters ahead of Trump's remarks Tuesday night, Lake made it clear that her loyalty was unflinching.

"If these people who are coming after him think they are going to turn the people

[See **GOP,** A8]

It's a new episode of 'Star Enters Politics'

Actor Ben Savage's bid for Congress is the latest test of celebrity appeal to voters.

BY SEEMA MEHTA

Clicking on BoyMeetsCongress.com leads to the campaign website for Ben Savage, the star of a similarly named 1990s network sitcom who is now running for Congress to represent part of Los Angeles County.

The baby-faced 42-year-old, a Democrat, is among a dozen candidates officially vying for the seat held by Rep. Adam B. Schiff, who hopes to succeed retiring U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Rivals include a board member of the nation's second-largest school district, state legislators, a West Hollywood council member and a former Los Angeles city attorney — people who have won elections and governed.

Yet none have received the attention Savage has — a televised interview on "Good Morning America 3," as well as articles in the New York Times, the Washington Post and CNN — even though he came in seventh place in his only prior run for public office. The candidacy of Savage, whose "Boy Meets World" coming-of-age series was particularly popular among millennials, is the latest test of how much celebrity matters in American politics.

There is a long history of famous people running for office, especially in California, with its concentration of

[See **Savage,** A9]

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

CROSSTOWN BATTLE

Clippers guard Norman Powell, right, blocks a shot by Lakers guard Dennis Schroder in the first quarter of the Clippers' 125-118 win Wednesday at Crypto.com Arena. **SPORTS, B10**

A pesky consequence of heavy rains

Recent deluge of storms in California means fertile ground for mosquitoes, experts say. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

For AI firms, fear is a strategy

Doomsaying is rampant, and that's good for stoking sales, columnist Brian Merchant writes. **BUSINESS, A10**

Pence won't fight subpoena order

Former vice president could testify in probe into attempts to subvert 2020 vote. **NATION, A6**

Weather
Mostly sunny.
L.A. Basin: 75/51. **B6**

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VISIT…

Fear follows Nicaraguan faith leaders into exile

Many who have fled or been expelled are still seen as a threat by President Daniel Ortega's government.

By María Teresa Hernández

Carlos Gonzalez Associated Press

A PROCESSIONAL on a recent Sunday at the Immaculate Conception of Maria, La Carpio, Catholic Church in San Jose, Costa Rica, where most of the congregation is made up of Nicaraguan exiles and refugees.

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — For two hours each afternoon, the Catholic priest listens to confessions behind a glass wall where anyone nearby can spot him. Yet that visibility is deceptive; he yearns to keep his name and exact whereabouts a secret to the outside world.

He began hearing confessions within a few days after recently fleeing to Costa Rica from Nicaragua, where the government has imprisoned religious leaders, activists and numerous outspoken critics of President Daniel Ortega.

The priest agreed to an interview on condition his name and new home base be withheld. He fears for his loved ones, who still live in Nicaragua, and hopes they'll be safe as long as he remains discreet.

He is not alone. Many priests and nuns in exile worry about reprisal from Ortega and fear going public with their stories.

"There is persecution of the church because the church is the voice of the people," the priest said.

A human rights organization, Nicaragua Nunca Más, estimates that more than 50 religious leaders have fled since 2018, when a social security reform triggered massive protests. Last year, two congregations of nuns — including from the Missionaries of Charity order founded by Mother Teresa — were expelled.

Other church personnel — including priests, seminarians and lay staff members — were among the 222 Nicaraguans released from detention and forcibly expelled to the United States on Feb. 9.

The priest interviewed in Costa Rica left his Nicaragua hometown so hastily that there was no time for goodbyes. In the sole company of a driver, he traveled by car, then by motorcycle. Once near the Costa Rican border, he walked.

"I miss my people, my nation," he said, his voice breaking.

Ortega initially asked the Catholic Church to play a role as a mediator as political tensions rose over the last five years, but the first round of dialogue didn't last long. After priests sheltered demonstrators inside their parishes and expressed concern about excessive use of force, Ortega targeted them as "terrorists" who backed opposition efforts to undermine or overthrow him.

Nicaragua Nunca Más and CSW, a British-based organization that advocates for religious freedom around the world, say Ortega's government has targeted evangelical pastors, as well as Catholic personnel. Yader Valdivia of Nicaragua Nunca Más said at least 50 evangelical churches have been shut down.

The two organizations have gathered testimonies from dozens of people — some in exile and some still in Nicaragua — who have described harassment, threats, physical violence and arbitrary detention targeted at a range of religious workers. There are multiple accounts of masked men breaking into churches, theft or destruction of religious objects, and the prohibition of religious processions.

CSW said parishioners are warned to not display holy symbols outside their homes, while detainees are denied visits from clergy and barred from keeping a Bible in prison.

Among the remaining prisoners, the highest-profile Catholic cleric is Bishop Rolando Álvarez of Matagalpa. Before his arrest last year, his image was seen around the world as he knelt in front of security forces after being barred from celebrating Mass inside his church and deciding to pray in the streets.

An outspoken critic of the government, Álvarez was sentenced to 26 years in prison and stripped of his Nicaraguan citizenship on Feb. 10, the day after Ortega released and sent to the U.S. the planeload of opposition figures.

In Nicaragua, Catholic leaders' response to the government's repression has been muted, apparently in an attempt to not inflame tensions. Commenting last month on Álvarez's imprisonment, Cardinal Leopoldo Brenes of Managua — Nicaragua's capital — said, "Pray that the Lord gives him strength."

Reynald Gaitán, a former seminarian who met Álvarez in Matagalpa and currently studies theology in Costa Rica, believes that the bishop's imprisonment could be problematic for Ortega.

"If Monsignor were to die, his cause would continue to live because we will always remember him as a martyr," Gaitán said.

Two priests who were released and exiled Feb. 9 — after spending several months in a Nicaraguan prison — shared some of their experiences with Catholic faithful at a recent Mass in Miami.

They described how they had no inkling of their upcoming release until they were told suddenly to change from prison uniforms into their regular clothes and placed on buses heading to the airport.

The priests recounted the emotional flight to the U.S., with former prisoners hugging one another and crying with both relief and the sorrow of leaving families behind who are still at risk should they speak publicly about their ordeals.

"When the church seemingly was trying to be a voice for the voiceless, ... the Ortega regime went after the church," said Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski, who has met with some of the exiled clergy and seminarians.

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the Americas after Haiti, according to the World Bank. Facing poverty, unemployment and repression, most Nicaraguans crave spiritual reassurance. More than 40% of the population is Catholic and 35% evangelical.

"The church in Nicaragua plays a very important role," said the priest interviewed by the Associated Press in Costa Rica. "It is the one who cares for the poor, who always tells the truth and remains close to its people."

He recalls his hometown as a humble place, where parishioners are deeply religious. Threats against him surfaced, he said, when he started referring during Mass to the difficult situation facing the church.

Policemen patrolled around the parishes and attended Masses dressed as civilians to monitor what was said during the homily, he recalled. Parishioners were interrogated regarding the speeches of their priests.

"There is a lot of fear, even among the laypeople who speak out," he said. "We cannot say anything and, if we do, we know there's a price to pay."

Elsewhere in Costa Rica, the AP spoke with one of the Nicaraguan nuns who was expelled last year. Like the priest, she requested anonymity because her family stayed behind.

She remains baffled by the expulsion order, saying her work was devoted to children and the elderly.

"Wherever people saw us, they greeted us. They welcomed us in their homes," she said.

Her faith remains strong.

"I pray for my country," she said. "I think that everyone does, not just me. We pray so that we can live calmly, in peace."

Hernández writes for the Associated Press.

25 years after end of 'Troubles,' youth leaders push love

With Northern Ireland still partly split, groups teach teens about tolerance.

By Peter Smith

Peter Morrison Associated Press

TOURISTS walk by the peace wall in west Belfast, Northern Ireland. Next week will mark 25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, which ended much of the violence that killed over 3,600 in the region.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Teenagers from Catholic and Protestant youth groups lighted candles on a Belfast street in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust, then listened solemnly to a warning about the dangers of Northern Ireland's own infamous religious bigotries.

"We all know what prejudice is," said Stephen Hughes, leader in charge of St. Peter's Immaculata Youth Center, his voice carrying over the twilight rush-hour traffic. "We were encouraged to hate each other because they're Protestant or they're Catholic."

The teens were too young, he noted, to remember "the Troubles" — three decades of sectarian violence that claimed more than 3,600 lives in the late 20th century and left countless more wounded and bereaved.

The violence largely ended 25 years ago this month with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, which laid out a political process for resolving Northern Ireland's future.

But that political process has been turbulent, skirmishes have periodically resurfaced, and Catholic and Protestants remain segregated in many ways.

Moreover, Catholics now outnumber Protestants in a land historically defined by its pro-British Protestant majority. But neither of them are in church as often as they used to be, those who profess no religion are growing, and Catholics have mixed views about uniting with Ireland, meaning it's not expected to come to a vote anytime soon.

There's still plenty of work for those in the business of reconciliation and community-building.

The Holocaust memorial event on a January evening was one of a series of small yet earnest activities by two youth groups — the Catholic St. Peter's Immaculata and the Townsend Street Social Outreach Center, located in an adjacent Protestant neighborhood. Their aim is to build communication and friendship across the walls and habits separating their communities.

The event was commemorating a genocide far greater than the Northern Ireland conflict, but the memorial offered a powerful and relevant warning, Hughes said.

"Our own hatred, the laughs and jokes we make about each other, can quickly escalate," he said.

He urged the teens to be peacebuilders. "Thankfully, you don't know that violence," he said. "The thing is, you are the future."

And then the youths climbed back into their minibus for a stop at McDonald's, where they mingled over Big Macs and fries before heading home to their separate neighborhoods.

Religion, long a part of the problem, can be part of the solution, said Ruth Petticrew, longtime director of the Townsend Street organization. "Let's show people that love works, but it has to be genuine love, not preaching at them."

The 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement is arriving as Northern Ireland's population undergoes dramatic change.

Northern Ireland was created a century ago as a six-county entity with a 2-to-1 Protestant majority — fiercely loyal to the United Kingdom even as the rest of predominantly Catholic Ireland won independence from it.

Long a minority, Catholics now make up 42% and Protestants 37% of Northern Ireland's population of 1.9 million, according to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

But in another demographic jolt, the number of people who don't identify with any religion jumped to 17%, up from 10% a decade earlier.

Faith leaders in Northern Ireland say church attendance has shrunk even among those who still identify as Christian.

The Good Friday Agreement authorizes a referendum on Irish unification if polls ever indicate it would probably pass.

But nearly twice as many people in Northern Ireland — 50% vs. 27% — would vote to stay in Britain rather than to join Ireland if a referendum were held now, according to a 2022 survey published in the Irish Times.

What's more, only 55% of Catholics in Northern Ireland would vote to join Ireland. Most others would either stay in the U.K. or were uncertain.

Secular and other voters are also mixed — with nearly a third uncertain.

"There's more and more and more people like myself who also don't actually identify with the idea or don't take a position on being part of the U.K. or part of the Republic of Ireland," said Boyd Sleator, coordinator of the group Northern Ireland Humanists. "We should just think about governing ourselves."

Even if religion is in retreat, faith-based groups are still working toward reconciliation on a grassroots level.

Few efforts are more striking than what's taking place at the Building Bridges Community Boxing Club.

It operates in what was once the fellowship hall of a Presbyterian church that has since closed. The building was acquired by 174 Trust, a faith-based community group, and turned into a boxing gym.

It's located astride one of the "peace walls" that divide neighborhoods in an effort to keep sectarian violence at bay. The gym's front door opens onto a predominantly Protestant neighborhood, its back door onto a mostly Catholic neighborhood.

That enables the gym to stay open in the evening, accessible to youths from both neighborhoods — even after the gates to the peace wall are closed each night.

Unlike some sports, which are divided along sectarian lines, boxing brings out fans from all communities, said the Rev. Bill Shaw, chief executive of the 174 Trust, which works closely with the boxing club. When one young boxer, a Protestant, began to have success in the ring, his newfound Catholic friends from the gym turned out to cheer him on.

"When people don't know each other and have no contact with the other, you can live with that prejudice and allow it to poison yourself," Shaw said.

But it's a different story, he said, "when they actually meet each other."

Much of Shaw's work is at the Duncairn, a community center in another former Presbyterian church a few blocks from the boxing gym in a historically embattled neighborhood. Within its stained-glass windows and Gothic arches, the Duncairn today hosts concerts, exhibitions, an Irish-language preschool, a cafe and support groups.

On a winter morning, Catholic and Protestant clergy gathered for prayer around a table at the Duncairn.

One by one, they earnestly prayed for an end to prejudice and hatred, followed by contemplative silences and quiet expressions of "amen."

The goal for such centers, Shaw said, is reconciliation rather than proselytizing.

"Faith is what motivates us," said Shaw. "It's not what we're selling."

Another faith-based initiative was evident on a winter evening, when scores of people from multiple churches and neighborhoods gathered in a Methodist sanctuary to pray together, listen to a Catholic speaker and worship with Psalms set to Irish tunes accompanied by fiddle and tin whistle as part of the larger 4 Corners Festival.

"The legacy of conflict has left us with fear," said the Rev. Martin Magill, a Catholic priest and a festival organizer. "Being able to provide safe spaces is very important."

Smith writes for the Associated Press.

Israeli police force Palestinians out of mosque

Dozens of worshipers are removed in a second night of unrest at Jerusalem holy site.

By Isabel Debre and Fares Akram

Mahmoud Illean Associated Press

ISRAELI police detain a Palestinian near Al Aqsa Mosque. Violence at the site came as Muslims marked the holy month of Ramadan and Jews began Passover.

JERUSALEM — Violence resumed for a second straight night in Jerusalem on Wednesday when Palestinian worshipers barricaded themselves inside Al Aqsa Mosque at the Old City's sensitive compound and Israeli police used force to remove dozens of the worshipers.

The tension in Jerusalem also prompted rocket fire from the Gaza Strip on Wednesday night.

The fighting, which comes as Muslims mark the holy month of Ramadan and Jews began Passover, raised fears of a wider conflagration.

The Palestinian Red Crescent reported that at least six people were injured in the latest violence. The Islamic Waqf authorities, which manages the compound, said police fired stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

The Israeli police said that "dozens of law-breaking juveniles" had fomented chaos, throwing rocks and other objects at officers and compelling police to act to restore "security, law and order."

More Palestinians had gathered in the mosque, responding to calls by Waqf to pray inside overnight. At one of the mosque entrances, police officers could be seen escorting dozens of Palestinians out of the compound. Residents and shoppers milled around, watching social media videos on their phones showing the renewed clashes that had occurred just yards away.

Early on Wednesday, Israeli police stormed Al Aqsa Mosque, firing stun grenades at Palestinians who hurled stones and firecrackers in a burst of violence during a sensitive holiday season. Palestinian militants in Gaza responded with rocket fire on southern Israel, prompting repeated Israeli airstrikes.

The violence had calmed by Wednesday morning, but in the evening, Palestinian militants fired two more rockets from Gaza, with one falling short inside the enclave and the other falling near the security fence separating Gaza from Israel, the Israeli military said. There were no reports of casualties.

The mosque sits in a hilltop compound sacred to both Jews and Muslims, and competing claims over it have spilled into violence before, including a bloody 11-day war between Israel and Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza. Al Aqsa is the third-holiest site in Islam and stands in a spot known to Jews as the Temple Mount, which is the holiest site in Judaism.

Palestinian militant groups warned that further confrontation was coming, but a Palestinian official said the Palestinian Authority was in contact with officials in Egypt, Jordan, the United States and at the United Nations to de-escalate the situation. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was working to "calm tensions" at the holy site.

People who were detained at the compound and later released said police used batons, chairs, rifles and whatever else they could find to strike Palestinians, who included women and children. The Palestinians responded by hurling stones and setting off firecrackers that they'd brought to evening prayers for fear of possible clashes. Outside the mosque's gate, police used stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse crowds of young men.

Palestinian Red Crescent medics said at least 50 people were injured. Israeli police said they were not immediately able to confirm the reports or videos showing officers beating Palestinians but said 350 were arrested. They added that one officer suffered a leg injury.

Separately, the Israeli military said one soldier was shot and moderately wounded in the occupied West Bank.

Most of the Palestinians arrested at Al Aqsa were released from detention by early afternoon, said lawyer Khaled Zabarqa, who represents several of them. But he said that some 50 Palestinians, many of them from the occupied West Bank, were still detained and that their cases would be heard at the Ofer Military Court on Friday. He put the total number arrested at 450.

U.N. Mideast envoy Tor Wennesland said he was "appalled by the images of violence" at Al Aqsa, condemning the beating and mass arrests of Palestinians as well as reports of Palestinians stockpiling firecrackers and rocks.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian envoy to the United Nations, expressed "outrage and condemnation" over the attack, telling reporters at U.N. headquarters: "It is the right of the Palestinian Muslim worshipers to exercise their religious duties and prayers in this holy month of Ramadan, and in any other time in this holy Aqsa Mosque."

Crowds of Palestinians gathered around a police station in Jerusalem on Wednesday, waiting anxiously for their loved ones to trickle out of detention. Amin Risheq, a 19-year-old from East Jerusalem, said that after being beaten and forced to lie on the floor of the mosque with dozens of others, his hands zip-tied behind his back, he was taken to the police station where he said he did not have access to a toilet, medical attention or water for more than six hours.

"They treated us like animals," he said.

Since Ramadan began March 22, scores of Muslim worshipers have repeatedly tried to stay overnight in the mosque, a practice that is typically permitted only during the last 10 days of the monthlong holiday. Israeli police have entered nightly to evict the worshipers.

Tensions have been further heightened by calls from Jewish ultranationalists to carry out a ritual slaughter of a goat in the compound, as happened in ancient times.

Israel bars ritual slaughter on the site, but calls by Jewish extremists to revive the practice, including offers of cash rewards to anyone who even attempts to bring an animal into the compound, have amplified fears among Muslims that Israel is plotting to take over the site.

Netanyahu repeated Wednesday that he's committed to preserving the long-standing arrangement at the compound. He described the worshipers who locked themselves in the mosque as "extremists" who prevented Muslims from entering the mosque peacefully.

More than a hundred religious Jews filtered through the site Wednesday during regular morning visiting hours, as small crowds of Muslims gathered around them shouting, "God is greater!"

Jews are permitted to visit the compound, but not pray there, under long-standing agreements. But such visits, which have grown in numbers in recent years, have often raised tensions, particularly because some Jews are often seen quietly praying.

After about 80,000 worshipers attended evening prayers at the mosque Tuesday, hundreds of Palestinians barricaded themselves inside overnight to pray. Some said they wanted to ensure religious Jews didn't carry out animal sacrifices. After they refused to leave, Israeli police moved into the mosque.

Israeli police said "several law-breaking youths and masked agitators" brought fireworks, sticks and stones into the mosque, chanting insults and locking the front doors. "After many and prolonged attempts to [talk them into leaving], police forces were forced to enter the compound," police said.

Moayad abu Mayaleh, 23, said he blocked a door of the mosque with hundreds of others to prevent the police from entering before they broke in.

"We can't let them get away with this," he said.

In the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian leadership denounced the attack on the worshipers as a violation that "will lead to a large explosion."

Palestinian militants responded to the events by firing a barrage of rockets from Gaza into southern Israel, setting off air-raid sirens.

The Israeli military said five rockets were fired, and all were intercepted. Israel responded with airstrikes that the army said hit Hamas weapons storage and manufacturing sites.

Associated Press writers Debre and Akram reported from Jerusalem and Gaza City, respectively. AP writers Ilan Ben Zion in Jerusalem and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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High-profile visit galvanizes a global divide

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

TAIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen walks with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. "The friendship between the people of Taiwan and America is a matter of profound importance to the free world," McCarthy said.

[**Divide,** from A1]
legal who lives in Koreatown and was born in Shenyang, China, before friends whisked her away to continue her speechifying at another spot.

Linda and Dennis Luc, who are immigrants from Taiwan, took a day off from work to come to the library and support Tsai.

The Lucs, members of the Taiwanese Assn. of Northwest Los Angeles, each waved a homemade sign with a large red heart and the words, "Taiwan Go! Go! Go!"

"I'm very happy she can go anywhere she wants. Nobody can dictate to her. This is a freedom country, and we hope for that same freedom for Taiwan," said Dennis Luc, 63, who works in electronics assembly.

In a short speech after his hourlong meeting with Tsai, McCarthy invoked President Reagan and "his belief in democracy and commitment to the idea of peace and freedom."

"Those values have always served as the bedrock of our friendship with the people of Taiwan," he said. "And they are more important now than ever before. I believe our bond is stronger now than any time or point in my life."

He said the U.S. will honor its obligation to Taiwan, which he did not explicitly define, and noted that the meeting, which included 12 Republicans and six Democrats, was bipartisan.

"The friendship between the people of Taiwan and America is a matter of profound importance to the free world, and it is critical to maintain ... freedom, peace and regional stability," said McCarthy, a Republican from Bakersfield.

Tsai echoed McCarthy in noting that the long-standing relationship between Taiwan and the U.S. is critical.

"The unwavering support reassured the people of Taiwan that we are not isolated," she said. "We are not alone."

She also cited Reagan, who said that freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.

"It is no secret that today, the peace that we have maintained and the democracy which we have worked hard ... are facing unprecedented challenges," Tsai said. "We once again find ourselves in a world where democracy is under threat, and the urgency for keeping the beacon of freedom shining cannot be understated."

Tsai said she reiterated to the congressional delegation that Taiwan is committed to upholding the status quo, which the Taiwanese government has defined as "no unification, no independence, and no use of force."

"To preserve peace, we must be strong," she said, paraphrasing Reagan. "I would like to add that we are stronger when we are together."

After the meeting, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement, "In response to the egregiously wrong action taken by the United States and Taiwan, China will take strong and resolute measures to defend our sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The previous House speaker, Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), visited Taiwan in August, prompting Beijing to launch missiles over the area, deploy warships into the Taiwan Strait and carry out military exercises in a simulated blockade of the island.

McCarthy had planned to meet Tsai in Taiwan. But to avoid further provoking China, the meeting took place during Tsai's trip to the U.S. and Central America.

Speaking to the media with other Congress members Wednesday afternoon, McCarthy said he doesn't have specific plans to visit Taiwan. But he didn't rule out the possibility of going.

"I would not go for a simple purpose for myself ... and it wouldn't be in an adversary role," he said.

Tsai spent two nights in New York, then visited Guatemala and Belize, which are among Taiwan's few remaining formal diplomatic allies, before arriving in L.A. on Tuesday.

Beijing views Tsai and her Democratic Progressive Party as Taiwan independence activists, even though Tsai's public statements are carefully calibrated to avoid crossing that line.

After she was elected to her first term as president in 2016, Tsai declined to endorse the concept that Taiwan and the mainland are part of one China, prompting Beijing to cut diplomatic contact with her.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday at a meeting in Brussels of NATO foreign ministers, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said that "transits" through the U.S. by Taiwanese presidents are nothing unusual, nor are meetings with American elected officials.

In 2018, Tsai made a public speech in L.A. and toured NASA's mission control complex in Houston. Her visit to an 85C Bakery Cafe, which is headquartered in Taiwan and has multiple locations in Southern California, prompted calls from China supporters to boycott the business.

"So it's a long way of saying that, given that, Beijing should not use the transits as an excuse to take any actions to ratchet up tensions to further push at changing the status quo," he said. "And our objective remains the same, to have peace, to have stability across the Taiwan Strait, and to ensure that any differences that exist between mainland and Taiwan are resolved peacefully."

Bonny Lin, a senior fellow for Asian security and director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Beijing's response to the McCarthy-Tsai meeting could range from military drills to economic sanctions, saying she wouldn't be surprised by at least a medium military response.

"We also know that China's response has been more extreme over time," Lin said. "As China's military capability has increased, as China's overall power has increased, Beijing no longer feels that it needs to tolerate these types of activities."

As Tsai stepped out of her car at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel after arriving in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, pro-China protesters chanted, "Against Taiwan independence! One China!" in Mandarin.

Tsai waved to supporters displaying U.S. and Taiwan flags.

Ziyun Zhang, a 30-year-old Uber driver, is from China but traveled from the Bay Area to root for Tsai.

He said he moved to the U.S. in 2020 after criticizing the Chinese government and Hong Kong's extradition law on the WeChat app. He said Chinese police interrogated him for an hour and warned that he would go to jail if he continued to speak out.

"We still support [Tsai] because of democracy," Zhang said. "She also stands with us.... She stands against the dictatorship of the [Chinese Communist Party]."

Before Tsai arrived, small scuffles broke out when some of her supporters tried to snatch signs from the pro-China crowd. Police eventually separated the two groups. Still, they engaged in shouting matches, chanting dueling slogans.

One China supporter, Peter Wei, said he doesn't see a difference between people from mainland China and Taiwan.

"We have the same cultural background. We speak the same language," said Wei, an engineer who came to the U.S. from Beijing in 1990 at age 13.

Wei, president of the Chinese American Community Assn. in Southern California, thinks that Tsai's visit will aggravate anti-China sentiment in the U.S.

"Her purpose is not to rest on her way to Central America," Wei said. "Her purpose is to ruin the relationship between the U.S. and China."

Times staff writer Tracy Wilkinson contributed to this report.

Taiwanese leaders' dueling trips underscore choices facing island

CAI YANG Xinhua News Agency

FORMER Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, left, pays his respects at his grandfather's tomb in Xiangtan county in central China's Hunan province Saturday.

[**Taiwan,** from A1]
Ing-wen's trips show the world two strategic choices," said Chen Fang-yu, assistant professor of political science at Soochow University in Taiwan. "It's the democratic versus autocratic blocs. These two people just selected totally different directions."

Those diverging paths come as Sino-U.S. relations have deteriorated to their lowest level in decades as the two countries vie for the upper hand in technological, economic and political influence. At the center of the growing hostility is Taiwan, which Beijing considers a part of China and has vowed to retake, by force if necessary.

The U.S. does not have official diplomatic ties with Taiwan. For decades, Washington has adhered to what is known as the one-China policy, which acknowledges but does not recognize China's territorial claim. The U.S. is also obligated to sell Taiwan arms to defend itself, but has not committed to sending military assistance in the event of an attack.

The approach, known as strategic ambiguity, is meant to deter China from launching a military assault and Taiwan from declaring independence. But Beijing's crumbling relationship with both Taipei and Washington has raised the specter of military conflict over the next few years.

Although a growing segment of Taiwan views the Chinese Communist Party unfavorably and identifies solely as Taiwanese, the vast majority of the island's 23 million people prefer to keep the status quo, over independence from or unification with China.

Opinions on how best to do so are deeply divided between Tsai's ruling Democratic Progressive Party, or DPP, and Ma's historically dominant Nationalist Party, also known as the Kuomintang, or KMT. The DPP favors a closer relationship with the U.S. rather than China, though critics say that could provoke Beijing's ire and doesn't guarantee military assistance. The KMT believes that warmer ties with Beijing are crucial to preserving peace, but its detractors are wary of becoming too cozy with an authoritarian government.

Tsai, who won reelection in 2020, espouses a more pro-U.S. international policy that stresses Taiwan's sovereignty. "In our efforts to protect our way of life, Taiwan is grateful to have the United States of America by our side," she said Wednesday in a news conference with McCarthy.

In 2016, Beijing cut diplomatic contact with Tsai after the then-newly elected president failed to endorse the concept that Taiwan and the mainland are part of one China.

By contrast, Ma, who served as president from 2008 to 2016, publicly reiterated the notion during his trip this week, prompting some criticism from Taiwanese media and the island's Mainland Affairs Council. Before Ma, whose 12-day tour began March 27, no former or incumbent president had visited the mainland since the KMT lost the civil war in China and fled to Taiwan in 1949.

In a historic summit in 2015, Ma met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Singapore for the first talks between Beijing and Taipei.

Although a China trip by the former president holds less political sway, Ma's actions could help the party gauge Taiwanese voters' appetite for closer ties with Beijing before next year's election. Though the Tsai administration has deepened its partnership with the U.S., the KMT might try to capitalize on doubts over the U.S. commitment to defending Taiwan, analysts said.

"With U.S.-China relations moving from engagement to competition, that broadens traditional cross-strait relations to trilateral relations," said Sung Wen-ti, a political scientist with Australia National University's Taiwan Studies Program. "Taiwan is going to be under constant pressure to choose one side or another."

The KMT has also argued that it is better suited to manage relationships with both Beijing and Washington, given the party's friendlier stance toward China and potential unification. Although the KMT won a sweeping victory in local elections in November, a growing mistrust of Beijing has weighed on the party's appeal in the last few presidential elections, particularly among young voters.

The next Taiwanese president has the potential to reshape cross-strait relations, with implications for military strategy in the broader Asia-Pacific region. As rhetoric on Taiwan has heated up, countries such as Australia and Japan have grown wary of Beijing's aggression and looked to bolster their own defense.

In August, Beijing launched an unprecedented series of military drills around the island, including sending missiles, warplanes and warships, in retaliation after outgoing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco) visited Taipei and met with Tsai.

Wednesday's meeting between Tsai and McCarthy (R-Bakersfield) at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley came during a U.S. stopover after the Taiwanese leader's 10-day trip through New York, Guatemala and Belize. The arrangement was largely seen as an attempt to make the encounter more palatable than Pelosi's trip and avoid stoking further hostility across the Taiwan Strait.

China has threatened to retaliate regardless. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said Tuesday that Beijing firmly opposed the meeting.

On Wednesday, China launched a three-day inspection of cargo and construction ships in the Taiwan Strait, according to the Fujian Maritime Affairs WeChat account. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council called the operation a violation of maritime practices and an escalation of cross-strait tensions, and is prepared to take countermeasures.

Still, China's military response may probably be more restrained than it was in August, analysts said. Actions that exceed those drills could further antagonize Taiwanese people ahead of the presidential election, as well as undermine China's attempts to position itself as a stable and reliable diplomatic partner to other countries.

"The more ramped-up [Beijing] makes its threats right now, the more salient that's going to become in Taiwanese civil society," said Lev Nachman, a political science professor at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. "That would be a mistake on their end."

David Shen of The Times' Taipei bureau contributed to this report.

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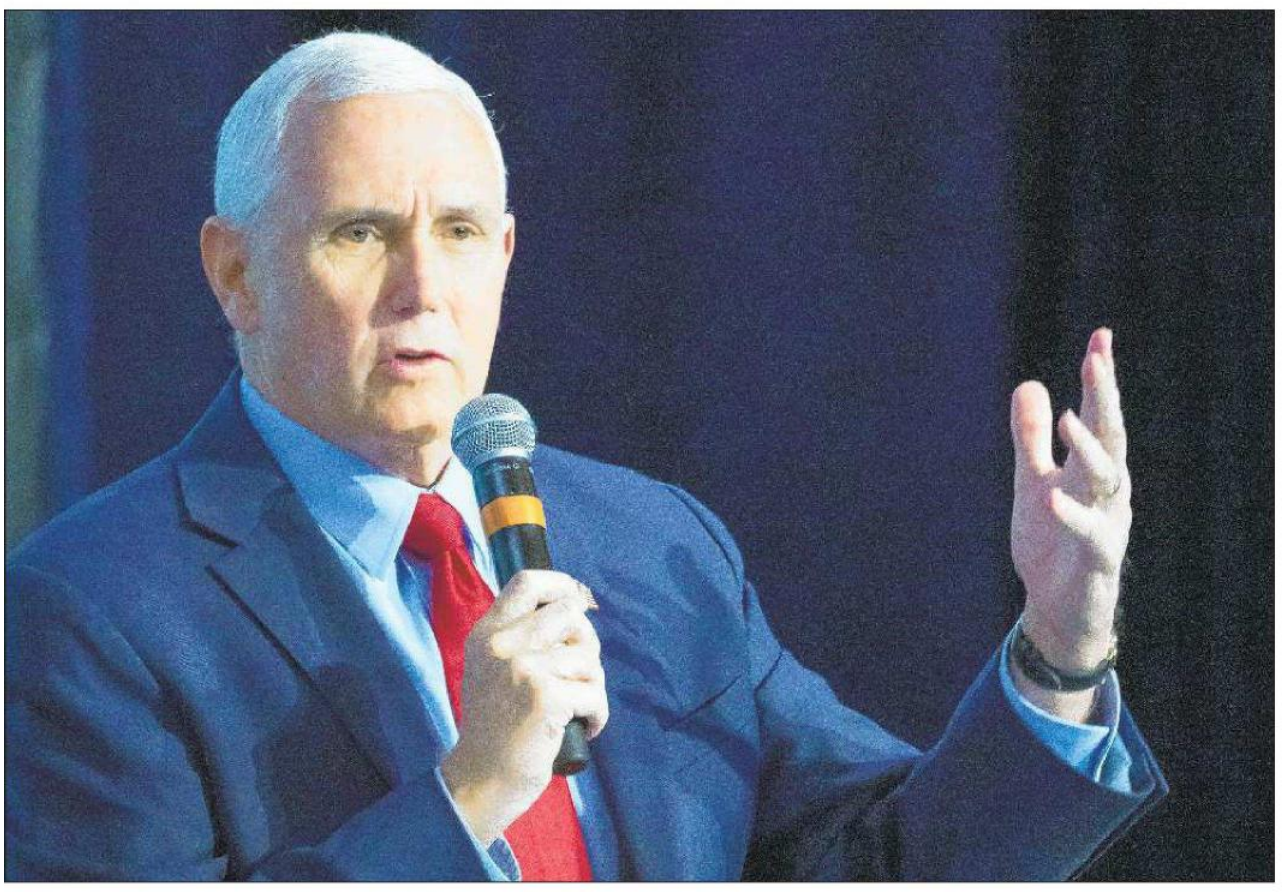

ALEX BRANDON Associated Press

FORMER Vice President Mike Pence won't be questioned about his actions on Jan. 6, 2021, but he could provide insight into the attempt by Donald Trump to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Pence won't fight subpoena order

Former vice president appears poised to testify in the federal inquiry into efforts to subvert 2020 vote.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A spokesman for Mike Pence said Wednesday that the former vice president will not appeal a judge's order compelling him to testify in the Justice Department's investigation into efforts by Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

The decision sets up a possible appearance by Pence in the coming weeks before a federal grand jury scrutinizing attempts by the former president and supporters before the riot at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, to undo Joe Biden's victory.

Multiple Trump administration officials have testified in that investigation, as well as in a separate inquiry examining Trump's possession of classified documents, but Pence would be the highest-profile witness to answer questions before a grand jury.

The former vice president's closed-door testimony could offer investigators a firsthand account of Trump's state of mind in the pivotal weeks after he lost to Biden and further expose the rift in their relationship since the end of their administration.

The strain could grow as Pence approaches a likely 2024 run for the presidency and a challenge to Trump, who already is in the race for the Republican nomination.

After Pence was subpoenaed months ago by the Justice Department's special counsel, lawyers for Trump objected on executive privilege grounds. But a federal judge in Washington last week rejected those arguments, forcing Pence to testify.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg did give Pence a win by accepting arguments from Pence's lawyers that, for constitutional reasons, he could not be questioned about his actions on Jan. 6. They had argued that because Pence was serving in his capacity as president of the Senate that day, he was protected from being forced to testify under the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause, which is intended to protect members of Congress from questioning about official legislative acts.

"Having vindicated that principle of the Constitution, Vice President Pence will not appeal the judge's ruling and will comply with the subpoena as required by law," Pence spokesman Devin O'Malley said in a statement Wednesday.

The Trump team could still appeal the executive privilege ruling from Boasberg.

The Jan. 6 and classified records investigations are being led by Jack Smith, a former war crimes prosecutor who was named by the Justice Department in November to serve as special counsel. It is unclear when the investigations might end or whether anyone will be charged.

Pence has spoken extensively about Trump's pressure campaign urging him to reject Biden's victory in the days leading up to Jan. 6, including in his book, "So Help Me God." As vice president, Pence had a ceremonial role overseeing Congress' counting of the electoral college vote but did not have the power to affect the results, despite Trump's contention otherwise.

Pence has said that Trump endangered his family and everyone else who was at the Capitol that day and that history will hold him "accountable."

"For four years, we had a close working relationship. It did not end well," Pence wrote, summing up their time in the White House.

U.S., Texas shooting victims settle lawsuit

Under deal, families in 2017 church massacre will get $144 million.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN, Texas — The Justice Department said Wednesday that it has tentatively settled a lawsuit over the 2017 mass shooting at a Texas church and will pay victims and their families more than $144 million.

More than two dozen people were killed when Devin Patrick Kelley opened fire during a Sunday service at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. Kelley, who died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was shot and chased by two men who heard the gunfire at the church, had served in the Air Force before the attack. Authorities put the official death toll at 26 because one of the 25 people killed was pregnant.

ERIC GAY Associated Press

PEOPLE visit a memorial to the more than two dozen people killed in 2017 in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez previously ruled that the Air Force was "60% liable" for the attack because it failed to submit to a national database Kelley's assault conviction during his time in the Air Force.

The Justice Department said the settlement is still subject to court approvals.

A lawyer for Sutherland Springs families did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

"No words or amount of money can diminish the immense tragedy of the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs," said Vanita Gupta, associate attorney general for the Justice Department, in a statement. "Today's announcement brings the litigation to a close, ending a painful chapter for the victims of this unthinkable crime."

Kelley had served nearly five years in the Air Force before being discharged in 2014 for bad conduct, after he was convicted of assaulting a former wife and stepson, cracking the child's skull. The Air Force has acknowledged that the felony conviction, had it been entered into the FBI database, could have prevented him from buying guns from licensed dealers, and also from possessing body armor.

Rodriguez said in 2021 that had the government done its job and entered Kelley's history into the database, "it is more likely than not that Kelley would have been deterred from carrying out the church shooting."

Indiana bans gender-affirming healthcare

Governor signs bill targeting trans minors, joining 12 other states.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor signed a bill Wednesday banning all gender-affirming care for minors, joining at least 12 other states that have enacted laws restricting or banning such care.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the legislation after GOP majorities in the Legislature approved it.

The law will take effect July 1, and trans youth currently taking medication to transition would have until the end of the year to stop doing so.

Holcomb had told reporters Tuesday that the bill on his desk was vague and had not indicated whether he would sign or veto it.

"Permanent gender-changing surgeries with lifelong impacts and medically prescribed preparation for such a transition should occur as an adult, not as a minor," he said in a statement.

Opponents of the legislation said the types of care the bill would ban, such as hormone therapy and puberty blockers, are vital and often life-saving for transgender kids.

Medical providers say most of the procedures banned in the bill are reversible and safe for minors. Transgender medical treatments for children and teens have been available in the United States for more than a decade and are endorsed by major medical associations.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana called Holcomb's decision "a devastating development for transgender youth" and said it intended to fight the law.

"In addition to targeting an already vulnerable group, this law blatantly disregards the rights of parents and families to make decisions about their children's health," the group's executive director, Jane Henegar, said in a statement.

"The ACLU is dedicated to overturning this unconstitutional law and is confident the state will find itself completely incapable of defending it in court."

But supporters of the legislation have contended such care is not reversible or carries side effects that only an adult — and not a minor's parent — can consent to.

Lawmakers also banned gender-transition surgeries for minors in the state, though hospital representatives in Indiana told lawmakers that doctors do not perform genital surgeries for minors or provide them surgery referrals.

At least 12 other states have enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for minors: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Utah, South Dakota and West Virginia.

Federal judges have blocked enforcement of laws in Alabama and Arkansas, and nearly two dozen states are considering bills this year to restrict or ban care.

Most recently, Republican Idaho Gov. Brad Little on Tuesday evening signed into law a bill criminalizing gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.

Maryland report details 'staggering' church sex abuse

In the last 80 years, more than 600 kids were assaulted in the Baltimore diocese.

BY LEA SKENE, BRIAN WITTE AND SARAH BRUMFIELD

BALTIMORE — More than 150 Catholic priests and others associated with the Archdiocese of Baltimore sexually abused more than 600 children over the last 80 years, according to a state report released Wednesday that accused church officials of decades of cover-ups.

The report paints a damning picture of the archdiocese, which is the oldest Roman Catholic diocese in the country and spans much of Maryland. Some parishes, schools and congregations had more than one abuser at the same time — including St. Mark Parish in Catonsville, which had 11 abusers living and working there between 1964 and 2004.

The Maryland attorney general's office issued the report during Holy Week — considered the most sacred time of year in Christianity ahead of Easter Sunday — and said the number of victims is probably far higher.

"The staggering pervasiveness of the abuse itself underscores the culpability of the Church hierarchy," the report says. "The sheer number of abusers and victims, the depravity of the abusers' conduct, and the frequency with which known abusers were given the opportunity to continue preying upon children are astonishing."

The disclosure of the redacted findings marks a significant development in an ongoing legal battle over their release and adds to growing evidence from parishes across the country as numerous similar revelations have rocked the Catholic Church in recent years.

Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, in a statement posted online, apologized to the victims and said the report "details a reprehensible time in the history of this Archdiocese, a time that will not be covered up, ignored or forgotten."

"It is difficult for most to imagine that such evil acts could have actually occurred," Lori said. "For victim-survivors everywhere, they know the hard truth: These evil acts did occur."

Also on Wednesday, the state Legislature passed a bill to end a statute of limitations on abuse-related civil lawsuits, sending it to Gov. Wes Moore, who has said he supports it. The Baltimore archdiocese says it has paid more than $13.2 million for care and compensation for 301 abuse victims since the 1980s, including $6.8 million toward 105 voluntary settlements.

Maryland Atty. Gen. Anthony Brown, who took office in January, said the investigation shows "pervasive, pernicious and persistent abuse." State investigators began their work in 2019 and reviewed over 100,000 pages of documents dating to the 1940s and interviewed hundreds of victims and witnesses.

Only one person has been indicted through the investigation: Neil Adleberg, 74, who was arrested last year and charged with rape and other counts. The case remains ongoing. Officials said he coached wrestling at a Catholic high school in the '70s, then returned to the role for the 2014-15 school year. The alleged abuse occurred in 2013 and 2014, but the victim was not a student of the school, officials said.

The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, known as SNAP, noted the attorney general's report has more names of abusers than have been released publicly by archdiocese officials. The organization called on the archbishop to explain the discrepancies.

Other investigations involving the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Wilmington, Del., which both include parts of Maryland, are ongoing.

The Baltimore report largely focuses on the years before 2002, when an investigation by the Boston Globe into abuse and cover-ups in the Archdiocese of Boston led to an explosion of revelations nationwide. The nation's Catholic bishops, for the first time, then agreed on reforms including a lifetime ban from ministry for any priest who commits even a single incident of abuse.

The report notes that although new national policies significantly improved the internal handling of reported abuse in the Baltimore archdiocese after 2002, significant flaws remained.

For example, some alleged abusers were allowed to retire, with financial support, rather than be ousted. In other cases before 2002, the archdiocese did not report allegations to authorities, or would not remove abusers from the ministry or restrict their access to children.

In some situations, victims ended up reporting abuse to priests who were abusive themselves, prosecutors wrote.

Jean Hargadon Wehner said she was abused in Baltimore as a teen by A. Joseph Maskell, a priest who served as her Catholic high school's counselor and chaplain. She said she reported her abuse to church officials in the early '90s, when her memories of the trauma finally surfaced about two decades after she was repeatedly raped. "I expected them to do the right thing in 1992," she told reporters Wednesday. "I'm still angry."

More than a dozen people accused Maskell of abuse. The priest denied the allegations before his death in 2001, and he was never criminally charged.

The Associated Press typically doesn't name victims of abuse, but Hargadon Wehner has spoken publicly to draw attention to the issue.

The report also includes numerous instances of church leaders taking steps to protect accused clergy. In 1964, for instance, Father Laurence Brett admitted to sexually abusing a teenager at a Catholic university in Connecticut.

He was sent to New Mexico under the guise of hepatitis treatment and then to Sacramento, where another teenage boy reported being abused by Brett, the report says. He was later assigned to Baltimore, where he served as chaplain at a Catholic high school for boys.

After several students accused him of abuse in 1973, Brett was allowed to resign. School officials didn't report the abuse to authorities and dozens more victims later came forward. He never faced criminal charges and died in 2010.

Lawyers for the state asked a court for permission to release the nearly 500-page document and a Baltimore Circuit Court judge ruled last month that a redacted version should be made public. The court ordered the removal of the names and titles of 37 people accused of wrongdoing — whose names came out during confidential grand jury proceedings — but will consider releasing a more complete version in the future.

Lawmakers' passage Wednesday of a bill to end the state's statute of limitations came after similar proposals failed in recent years. Currently, victims of child sex abuse in Maryland can't sue after they turn 38. The bill would eliminate the age limit and allow for retroactive lawsuits.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has long faced scrutiny over its handling of abuse allegations.

In 2002, Cardinal William Keeler, who served as Baltimore archbishop for nearly two decades, released a list of 57 priests accused of sexual abuse, earning himself a reputation for transparency at a time when the nationwide scope of wrongdoing remained largely unexposed.

That changed, however, when a Pennsylvania grand jury accused Keeler of covering up sexual abuse allegations while serving as bishop of Harrisburg in the 1980s.

Skene, Witte and Brumfield write for the Associated Press.

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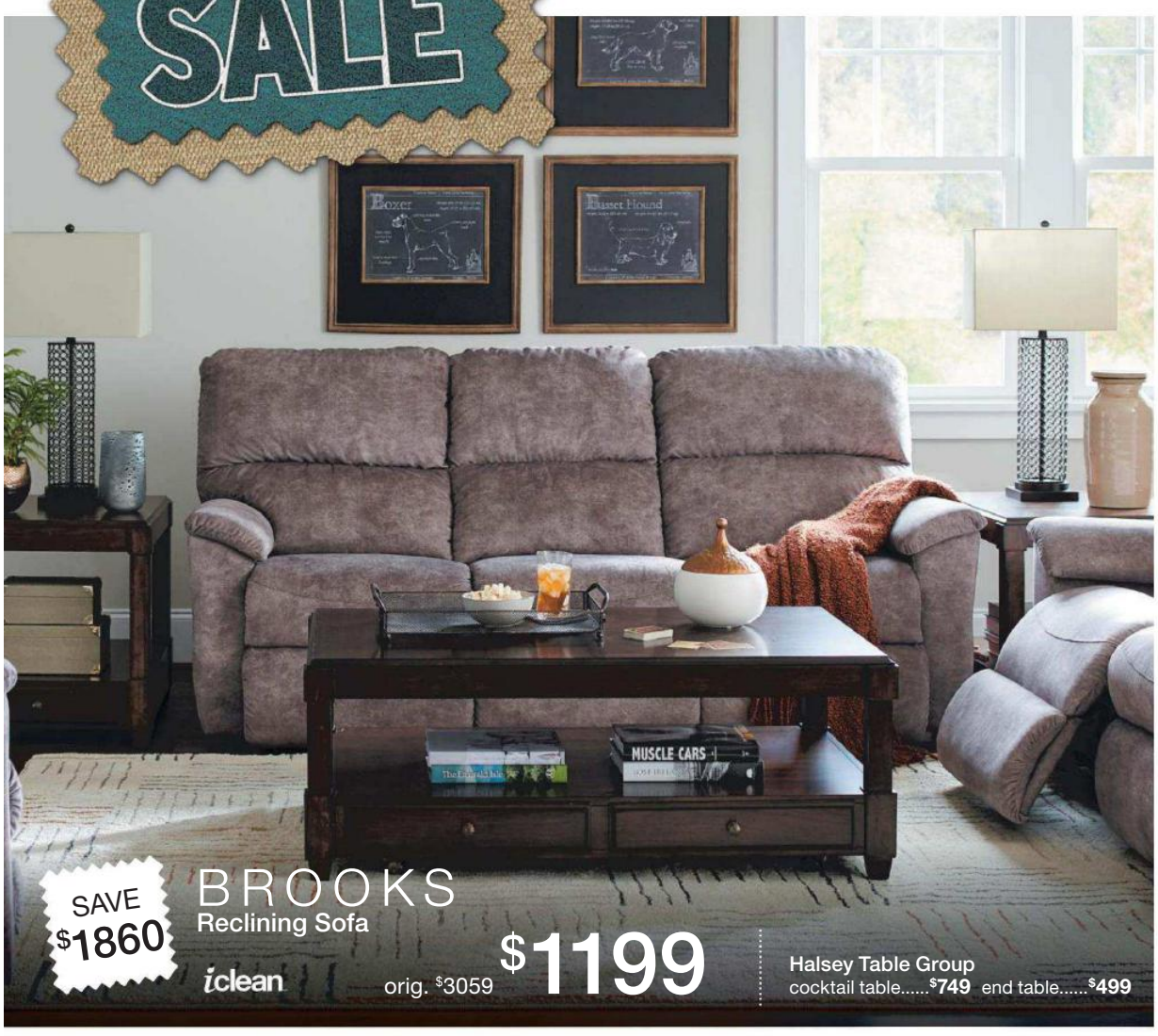

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LA23-0406

Predawn Missouri tornado kills at least 5

An early Midwest spring storm season continues, with more in the forecast.

By Jim Salter and Scott McFetridge

Missouri State Highway Patrol

DAMAGE from a tornado in southeast Missouri's Bollinger County. Survivors said they were awakened by weather alerts on their phones.

GLEN ALLEN, Mo. — A large tornado tore through southeastern Missouri before dawn Wednesday, killing at least five people and causing widespread destruction as the third in a series of deadly massive storms over the last two weeks struck the nation's heartland.

Forecasters kept a wary eye out for more possible tornadoes, hail and extreme weather as this year's early storm season continued. It has spawned dozens of tornadoes, mainly in the South and Midwest, killing at least 63 people.

Just last weekend, confirmed or suspected tornadoes in at least eight states laid waste to neighborhoods across a broad swath of the country.

Midwest tornadoes have typically occurred later in the spring, but this year's early spate of severe weather continues a trend seen over the last few years, said Bill Bunting, chief of forecast operations at the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

The Missouri tornado touched down around 3:30 a.m. Wednesday and moved through a rural area of Bollinger County, about 50 miles south of St. Louis, said Sgt. Clark Parrott of the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Trees were uprooted and homes turned into piles of splinters. One building was flipped on its side. Drone footage showed emergency crews peering into the wreckage with flashlights.

More than 20 agencies were part of the search for survivors and victims, with the damage so bad they sometimes were forced to use chain saws to cut back trees and brush to reach homes, Parrott said.

"The damage is pretty widespread. It's just heartbreaking to see it," Parrott said.

The damage was concentrated around the small rural communities of Glen Allen and Grassy, which are separated by a hunting area, said Bollinger County Sheriff Casey Graham in a Facebook post announcing the five deaths. He didn't immediately release the victims' names.

Charles Collier, 61, said he saw the coroner's van drive by with its lights on in Glen Allen, where he owns a storage facility.

"That was a sad, sad sight — knowing there was bodies in there," said Collier, whose facility was spared. "I was just numb, thinking about all these other people, what they're going through."

Josh Wells said the tornado tore half the roof off his Glen Allen home and pushed in his bedroom wall. Luckily, he fled beforehand with his son to his sister's home because it has a basement.

"We all ran down and huddled against the wall and my brother-in-law made it down just seconds before we heard the roaring sound of the wind and debris crashing around us," he said.

While his sister's home held up, the area reeked of gas because a propane unit was damaged.

Justin Gibbs, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Paducah, Ky., said the tornado remained on the ground for roughly 15 minutes, traveling an estimated 15 to 20 miles.

Based on early data, the tornado received a preliminary EF2 rating, packing wind speeds of 130 mph.

Gibbs noted that tornadoes are especially dangerous when they touch down late at night or early in the morning, as this one did.

"It's definitely a nightmare from a warning standpoint," Gibbs said. "It's bad anytime, but it's especially bad at 3:30 in the morning."

A phone weather alert awakened Bobby Masters, who said debris was slamming his Glen Allen home as he took shelter in his basement with his family. He recalled hearing a roar as the tornado passed.

"I had never heard a tornado before. They say it sounds like a freight train, and that is exactly what it sounds like," he said, adding: "The good Lord spared us, our family and our house."

Keith Lincoln, 56, who also was awakened by a phone alert, huddled in a bathtub with his wife and 18-year-old daughter and prayed: "Just save us and the house." He spent the afternoon patching his roof but was thankful his prayer was mostly answered.

Chris Green, 35, found a small black dog dead in the debris. "I can't just leave it here," he said as he and his father buried the animal.

The area is rural, with residents mostly farming, cutting timber or working construction jobs, said Larry Welker, Bollinger County's public administrator. The entire county's population totals around 10,500. The battered communities are tiny, little more than a few scattered homes and businesses.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson toured the storm damage area Wednesday and said President Biden had called to assure him of federal help.

Local agencies anticipate months of recovery efforts, he said.

"I will tell you, I just know because I grew up in a little small town, these small towns, these counties and these cites will come together to help one another out," Parson said.

The storms moving through the Midwest and South on Wednesday threaten some areas still reeling from a deadly bout of bad weather last weekend. The Storm Prediction Center said up to 40 million people in an area that includes major cities including Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit and Memphis, Tenn., were at risk from the storms later Wednesday.

Schools in Little Rock, Ark., canceled classes because the storms were expected to move through the area during the morning rush, KFVS-TV reported.

In central Illinois, authorities said five people were hurt and about 300 homes were without power due to a tornado that struck in Fulton County on Tuesday evening. Chris Helle, who directs the county's Emergency Services Disaster Agency, said one of the people injured was in critical condition.

Helle said the damage was concentrated near the town of Bryant, about 200 miles southwest of Chicago. Fire departments and other first responders were still surveying the damage there, but Helle said numerous homes had been destroyed. He credited people for listening to advance warnings and taking shelter.

Officials said another tornado touched down Tuesday morning in the western Illinois community of Colona. Local news reports showed wind damage to some businesses there.

Winds of up to 90 mph and baseball-sized hail also caused damage in the Quad Cities area of Iowa and Illinois.

Salter and McFetridge write for the Associated Press.

Trump loyalists see indictment as a call to action

[**GOP,** from A1]

against Trump, they have done just the opposite," Lake told reporters. "MAGA is going to grow so big, their heads are going to spin."

Lake is not the only far right figure eager to show her commitment to Trump.

In one of the more visible shows of allegiance, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) on Tuesday led a demonstration outside the Manhattan courthouse where Trump was arraigned. Later that day, she flew to Florida to stand with Trump as he returned to Mar-a-Lago to address supporters.

Greene likened Trump's arrest to those of Jesus Christ and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

"Trump is joining some of the most incredible people in history being arrested today," she told the conservative outlet Right Side Broadcasting.

The charges Trump faces have drawn near universal criticism from members of the GOP, including one of the former president's sharpest detractors, Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah), who twice voted to convict Trump during impeachment trials. But Trump's likely 2024 opponents — including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former Vice President Mike Pence — have largely tried to sidestep discussing the New York indictment beyond calling the prosecution political.

Meanwhile, for those on the right flank of the Republican Party, Trump's predicament has offered an opportunity to shore up their political bona fides with the GOP base and increase their visibility ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

Republican politicians fall into two camps, said GOP strategist Mike DuHaime — those who are afraid of upsetting Trump and his followers, and those who are seeking to build their profiles.

"There's this incredible ecosystem now of this kind of Trumpy wing of the party that you become a celebrity in and then you're hanging out with the My Pillow guy [Mike Lindell]," said DuHaime, who previously worked with former President George W. Bush and late Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona. "It's not going to get you elected in a general election. Many of them have proven that."

Lake has become one of the most vocal Trump supporters in the country, perpetuating disinformation long used by the former president to undermine confidence in the process. Last month, Lake suffered another legal blow when the Arizona Supreme Court declined to consider the bulk of her appeal in her efforts to challenge the outcome of the Arizona gubernatorial race.

After the indictment was announced last week, Lake said in a statement that she stood "unequivocally" behind the former president and called on others to do the same. As Trump headed to New York to be arraigned she tweeted words of encouragement.

As conjecture over her political future grows, Lake told the New York Times in February that she is considering running for U.S. Senate in Arizona, even as she is focused on the legal case surrounding her gubernatorial campaign. She has also traveled to Iowa — usually considered a sign that someone has presidential ambitions — where she'll hold three rallies this week.

When asked whether she would accept an invitation to be Trump's running mate, Lake deflected the question, insisting that her efforts to overturn the results of the 2022 Arizona gubernatorial race will be successful.

Joe Raedle Getty Images

KARI LAKE lost her race for Arizona governor but has spread disinformation about the election.

Rebecca Blackwell Associated Press

GOP Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene arrives at Mar-a-Lago after Donald Trump's arraignment on Tuesday.

"He's going to be the nominee," Lake told reporters. "And I believe I'm going to be the governor of Arizona. I won that race."

Before Trump picked Pence to be his vice presidential nominee, he appeared to audition a number of candidates, including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, before making a decision in July 2016.

If Trump becomes the Republican Party's presidential nominee this time around, he may choose someone who would be unwavering in their loyalty to him, even if they fail to appeal to the moderates and independents he'd need to win in the general election.

"He'll want somebody he can trust," said Sarah Longwell, an anti-Trump Republican strategist. "He learned a lesson from Mike Pence that the problem with some of these establishment guys is that they follow the Constitution."

At the same time, while Lake and Greene may appear to be auditioning to be Trump's running mate, they are also solidifying their brands in real-time, Longwell said.

"A lot of these politicians whose identities have been forged in the Trump era oftentimes seem to understand the base of the Republican Party slightly better than Republicans from the before times," said Longwell, who is also the executive director of the Republican Accountability Project, which opposes election deniers running for office.

Recent election cycles have also shown Trump's ability to boost, or tank, a candidate in a crowded Republican primary. He regularly held rallies for his endorsed candidates and has hinted he would give Greene the same treatment if she decided to run for the Senate in her home state.

"These Washington Republicans like [Sen.] Mitch McConnell, who's the absolute worst, they've got to get tougher. They got to get like Marjorie Taylor Greene," Trump said at a March 25 rally in Waco, Texas. "Would you like to run for the Senate? I will fight like hell for you, I tell you."

Republican politicians have almost universally condemned Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg's investigation into Trump as politically motivated, reflecting the sentiment of GOP voters.

Polling in the last few weeks suggests that voters believe politics played a role in the decision to indict Trump in New York, even if people approve of the indictment overall. A CNN poll released April 3 found that 76% of those surveyed — including 93% of Republicans and 76% of independents — said politics played some role in the decision to indict. At the same time, 60% of those surveyed — including 21% of Republicans and 60% of independents — approve of the decision to indict Trump.

The question is whether GOP support will hold if other investigations lead to criminal or federal charges. The former president isn't expected back in court for the hush money inquiry until December.

In the meantime, Trump is facing two federal investigations led by special counsel Jack Smith over the former president's handling of classified documents after he left office and his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Trump's actions are also the focus of a Georgia inquiry into whether he interfered with the 2020 election in that state.

"We don't know what the future holds, but it's certainly possible that far more consequential legal issues befall him between now and the time the primaries begin," said Scott Jennings, a GOP strategist and political commentator. "Is the Republican Party going to want to nominate someone who is in extreme legal jeopardy and extreme danger of losing his own freedom?"

At Mar-a-Lago, Greene urged Republicans to rally behind Trump.

"They got into office on his back," she said after Trump's remarks. "It's time for them to come and stand with President Trump, defend him, support him and stop this Democrat witch hunt and weaponization of government."

She declined to say whether other GOP candidates should drop out of the presidential race, saying that Trump "has been and always will be the front-runner."

As for who should be his vice president, Green said, "that hasn't been discussed."

"I don't think he's to that point yet," she said.

Logan reported from Palm Beach and John from Los Angeles.

Parts of state face flood risk from snowmelt

[**Snowmelt,** from A1]
the temperatures up in those mid-90s for extended periods of time."

As of Tuesday, the National Weather Service's River Forecast Center shows that the Merced River at Stevinson remains above flood stage, or the point at which water can overtop banks and create hazards for people and properties nearby. The San Joaquin River at Newman, Patterson, Vernalis and Mossdale is above monitor stage, indicating a potential to approach flood conditions.

"We'll keep a close eye on those areas, and we can expect to see these monitoring flood stages kind of fluctuating, but water levels remaining high, for the duration of the next few months," said Jeremy Arrich, manager of the Division of Flood Management with the California Department of Water Resources.

Yet predicting exactly when "the big melt" will occur is difficult.

"We're into that time of the year where the sun is up in the sky longer during the day, and the more often we have clear sunny skies, the more radiation you're going get on the snowpack," said Dave Rizzardo, the department's hydrology section manager.

"Unfortunately it's more of a week-to-week weather pattern," he said.

Warming conditions are expected in Central California through early next week, with high temperatures climbing to about five degrees above normal by Monday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service.

That includes temperatures around 80 degrees in the San Joaquin Valley. Temperatures at higher elevations in the nearby Sierra mountains could climb to the 40s and 50s.

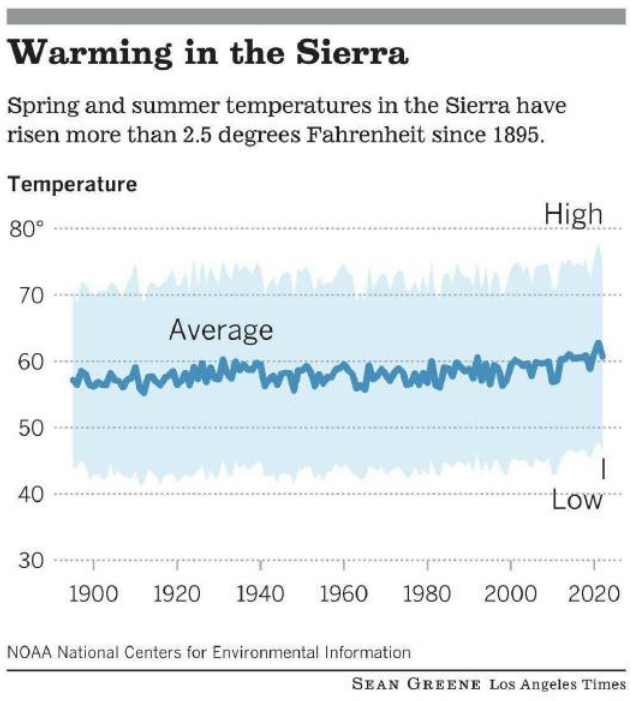
Chiari said some melting is possible at temperatures above freezing, 32 degrees, but the biggest concern will be when temperatures in the valley start climbing consistently into the high 90s — likely around midsummer.

Higher elevations with dense snowpack at 250% of normal or more could hold until late August or early September, she said. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's outlook for April, May and June shows equal chances of above- or below-normal temperatures in the state.

But reservoir operations can also affect flooding. As water managers release water from dams to make room for incoming flows, it can add pressure to rivers and tributaries downstream, keeping water levels high.

ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

A SUBMERGED pipe yard in Corcoran, Calif., as Tulare Lake expands. An order by Gov. Gavin Newsom will help prepare the Tulare Basin for potential flooding and the future effects of Sierra Nevada snowmelt runoff.



Officials don't foresee many rivers and tributaries that are already at flood stage going down in the near future "because some of those are due to dam releases," Chiari said.

The National Weather Service has issued a flood advisory along the Kings River in Fresno, Kings and Tulare counties until 9 p.m. Thursday because of floodgate releases from the Pine Flat Dam.

"River or stream flows are elevated," the advisory said, warning of "minor flooding in low-lying and poor drainage areas."

Specific areas that will experience minor flooding include Sanger, Reedley, Kingsburg and the Kings River Golf and Country Club.

A similar flood advisory is in effect in Fresno and Madera counties along the San Joaquin River until 9. p.m. Thursday due to releases from the Friant Dam, with parts of Fresno, Mendota, Biola, Friant and Millerton Lake expected to experience flooding.

Meanwhile, a flood warning will remain in effect along the Merced River at Stevinson "until the river falls below its flood stage," the National Weather Service said.

There are other variables to consider when it comes to snowmelt in California. The color of the snow can make a difference, as even a light dusting can reset the snow's albedo, or measure of whiteness, which helps reflect solar radiation and prevent melting, Rizzardo said.

The longer that snowpack sits without any fresh powder, the more time it has to collect dirt and debris, he said, noting "the darker snow is, the more it's going to absorb solar radiation."

The problem is even worse for snow near wildfire burn scars, which can collect soot, ash and charred materials that darken it even faster.

The elevation of the snow can also make a difference, as can the depth of the snowpack, because extremely deep snowpack can insulate itself, Rizzardo said.

"All in all, it's going to be a complex picture," he said. "The quicker it warms up and has sunnier days, the quicker we're going to see melt, but there are some ways that it can sort of protect itself from melt."

Although the Central Valley is a top concern, officials in Southern California have also expressed some fears about the potential for spring flooding. The Los Angeles Aqueduct, which draws water from the Owens Valley and delivers it to millions of people in L.A., was undermined last month when floodwaters caused a 120-foot section of the structure to crumble.

Officials with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power said crews are readying the aqueduct and nearby waterways in the eastern Sierra for a lengthy runoff season that could last into September. Flood protection measures are also underway in the northern part of their district around Inyo County.

Los Angeles will likely be spared any major floods, said Steven Frasher, a spokesman for the L.A. County Department of Public Works.

"Here in L.A. County we do not expect any flooding or other negative impacts related to snowmelt," Frasher said. "However, we do expect stream flows collected in our reservoirs to inflow well into summer due to large amount of precipitation this storm season."

In the meantime, officials farther north are keeping a close eye on areas that have already seen levee breaches and flooding this year. That includes much of the Tulare Lake Basin and portions of Allensworth and Alpaugh, which remain under evacuation warnings after being inundated by March storms.

"We're really taking advantage of the good weather that we're getting right now, and the areas that have had repairs are being watched to make sure they're staying the way they should be," said Savannah Birchfield, a spokesperson with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which is assisting Tulare County with its emergency flood response measures.

"Obviously we are looking at possible snowpacks bringing more water, but for now it's just really observing the work that we have done and making sure it's keeping that water back," she said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Friday issued an executive order to help ready the Tulare Basin for potential flooding and "prepare communities for the impacts of snowmelt runoff from the Sierra Nevada in the months ahead."

Newsom also secured a presidential major disaster declaration to further support response and recovery efforts in the storm-battered state.

Sean de Guzman, manager of snow surveys with the Department of Water Resources, said officials are continuing to advise agencies about the volume of snowmelt expected this year. Runoff in the Kings River Watershed could be as high as 265% of average, while the Kern River watershed could see "an absurdly high 422% of average," he said.

He added that the state is expanding its aerial remote sensing operations to fly over watersheds and collect more data about snowpack and runoff, with a particular focus on the southern Sierra.

The joint state-federal Flood Operations Center, which has been activated since early March, is also continuing to respond to levee concerns along the San Joaquin River and its tributaries, said Arrich, of the water resources department.

That includes a 200-foot levee segment near Tracy and a 900-foot levee segment near Vernalis, both of which received emergency erosion repairs after the recent storms, Arrich said.

Though some water began receding after the rains, residents can "expect these San Joaquin River levels to remain high through much of the spring and into early summer," he said.

Will Savage be another Reagan or another Takei?

[**Savage,** from A1]
actors, musicians and others drawn to the home of showbiz.

While some have had success jumping from entertainment to politics — notably former President Trump, former President Reagan and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — celebrity hardly guarantees a win. Reality television star and former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner placed 13th in the 2021 California gubernatorial recall race, and celebrity television doctor Mehmet Oz lost last year's U.S. Senate race in Pennsylvania.

"What a celebrity brings to the table is name recognition. They bring the ability to generate enthusiasm. They bring the ability to fundraise," said David Jackson, a political science professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio who has studied the impact of celebrity on politics. "However, some of the downsides can include — given that we exist in a highly fragmented entertainment culture — some people can be celebrities within one group but virtually unknown among other people."

Other potential downsides include being viewed as lightweights by voters, political consultants say, or refusing to put in the work necessary to run a competitive campaign, convinced that their celebrity is enough to win.

Savage argues that his life experiences — working as an actor since he was in elementary school, studying political science at Stanford, briefly interning on Capitol Hill and living for many years in California's 30th District, which includes Burbank, Glendale and West Hollywood — have prepared him to be an effective member of Congress.

"I've been working union jobs my entire career. I've provided jobs for other people. I understood very early on what a hard day's work was," Savage said during an interview at a juice bar and vegetarian cafe in West Hollywood. "I've been on sets working my entire life, and I don't go home and dive into a Scrooge McDuck gold palace."

Political strategists say Savage's celebrity could provide a boost in the multicandidate field, because of name identification and fundraising potential.

But they also argue that its value will quickly fade if he doesn't capitalize on it, particularly because of the challenges of running for Congress in an enormously expensive media market like Los Angeles.

"There's an advantage that you have to be careful not to squander," said Rob Stutzman, a GOP strategist and longtime advisor to Schwarzenegger.

Even with the action-movie star, who was widely known, "we had to do things to [quickly] convince people that this is a guy who is a big businessman who can do big things, not the guy you see on screen," Stutzman said. "I think Savage's fame is only a nominal advantage and can be quickly eclipsed if he's not able to raise money on par with the other candidates."

Overall, celebrity candidates have a middling record of success.

Winners include musician Sonny Bono, who was mayor of Palm Springs before becoming a congressman; actor Clint Eastwood, who served as mayor of Carmel; and actor Alan Autry, who led Fresno for two terms.

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

BEN SAVAGE, who starred in the sitcom "Boy Meets World," is running for Congress. "I think Savage's fame is only a nominal advantage," said one strategist.

Bob Dornan of Orange County was an actor before being elected to Congress in 1976. Sheila Kuehl, a child star best known for her role on the 1960s sitcom "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis," was the first openly gay person elected to the state Legislature and later won a seat on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

In Minnesota, voters elected professional wrestler Jesse Ventura governor and comedian Al Franken U.S. senator. Wisconsin voters sent MTV "Real World" star Sean Duffy to Congress. Actor Fred Thompson had numerous movie and television roles before and after representing Tennessee for nearly two decades in the U.S. Senate.

But the list of celebrity candidates who have lost is also long.

Actors Shirley Temple, George Takei, Antonio Sabato Jr., Gary Coleman and Kimberlin Brown unsuccessfully sought office in California. "Sex and the City" actress Cynthia Nixon's bid for governor of New York failed, as did "American Idol" runner-up Clay Aiken's congressional runs in North Carolina.

The fissure between colleagues on the 1960s television show "The Beverly Hillbillies" appeared especially painful. When Nancy Kulp, who played a bank secretary on the show, ran for Congress in Pennsylvania in 1984, the actor who played millionaire Jed Clampett, Buddy Ebsen, recorded a political ad for her rival. Kulp overwhelmingly lost.

Democratic strategist Garry South, a longtime advisor to Gov. Gray Davis, whom Schwarzenegger ousted in a 2003 recall, said a key question was whether a Hollywood star could deal with the rigors of being a political candidate, particularly in the modern era. Campaigns involve more than hobnobbing with donors at cocktail parties. They can also demand long hours knocking on doors, meeting with voters and navigating a political press corps that is quite different from the entertainment media.

"The real question I have about a celebrity candidate is: Can they really be a candidate and put up with all of the slings and arrows that are directed [their] way?" South said. "Depending on who you're talking about, celebrities live a pretty gilded life sometimes and are not equipped when a 27-year-old reporter gets in their face."

Savage, who ran for the West Hollywood City Council last year, argues that campaigning as a celebrity has its downsides. When City Council candidates were debating police funding, Savage said, his opponents publicized a picture of him from a TV comedy dressed as an FBI agent to suggest that he is a fascist and a Nazi.

"I find that offensive. I'm Jewish American and lost people in the Holocaust. That needs to be toned down. That is completely inappropriate," Savage said. "I'm not thin-skinned, but I'm saying we need to inspire people to do better than that."

Savage still looks like Cory Matthews — the lead character in "Boy Meets World" and in a short-lived sequel — aside from a few crow's feet at the corners of his eyes.

And he has the earnestness of his character, at one point saying during an interview: "Wow. So you're like the political reporter, but you're so nice. We were expecting a little meaner."

Savage's prospects in the crowded race are unclear. The primary is almost a year away and voters will have at least a dozen candidates to choose from. Several are people they have already seen on their ballots, such as school board member Nick Melvoin, former City Atty. Mike Feuer, state Sen. Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Laura Friedman.

The district's current congressman, Schiff, is running for higher office after more than two decades in the House, including his star turn in the Trump impeachment trials. A key question for Savage is whether voters will view him as a serious presence in the halls of power or remember him as a flannel-wearing teenager on television.

BUSINESS

ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

Why do AI startups stoke fear? To drum up sales

BRIAN MERCHANT

STEPHEN BRASHEAR Associated Press

SAM ALTMAN, CEO of OpenAI, declared he was "a little bit scared" of artificial intelligence. What better way to get customers to buy a product than to stoke fear of missing out on a scary tool that others will have?

You've probably heard by now: AI is coming, it's about to change everything, and humanity is not ready.

Artificial intelligence is passing bar exams, plagiarizing term papers, creating deepfakes that are real enough to fool the masses, and the robot apocalypse is nigh. The government isn't prepared. Neither are you.

Tesla founder Elon Musk, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak and hundreds of AI researchers signed an open letter last week urging a pause on AI development before it gets too powerful. "A.I. could rapidly eat the whole of human culture," three tech ethicists wrote in a New York Times op-ed. A cottage industry of AI hustlers have taken to Twitter, Substack and YouTube to demonstrate the formidable potential and power of AI, racking up millions of views and shares.

The doomscroll goes on. A Times columnist had a series of conversations with Bing and wound up afraid for humanity. A Goldman Sachs report says AI could replace 300 million jobs.

The concern has made its way into the halls of power too. Last week, Sen. Christopher S. Murphy (D-Conn.) tweeted, "ChatGPT taught itself to do advanced chemistry. It wasn't built into the model. Nobody programmed it to learn complicated chemistry. It decided to teach itself, then made its knowledge available to anyone who asked.

"Something is coming. We aren't ready."

Nothing of the sort has happened, of course, but it's hard to blame the senator. AI doomsaying is absolutely everywhere right now. Which is exactly the way that OpenAI, the company that stands to benefit the most from everyone believing its product has the power to remake — or unmake — the world, wants it.

OpenAI is behind the buzziest and most popular AI service, the text generator ChatGPT, and its technology currently powers Microsoft's new AI-infused Bing search engine, the product of a deal worth $10 billion. ChatGPT-3 is free to use, a premium tier that guarantees more stable access is $20 a month, and there's a whole portfolio of services available for purchase to meet any enterprise's text or image-generation needs.

Sam Altman, chief executive of OpenAI, declared that he was "a little bit scared" of the technology that he is helping to build and aiming to disseminate, for profit, as widely as possible. OpenAI's chief scientist, Ilya Sutskever, said last month, "At some point it will be quite easy, if one wanted, to cause a great deal of harm" with the models they are making available to anyone willing to pay. And a new report produced and released by the company proclaims that its technology will put "most" jobs at some degree of risk of elimination.

Let's consider the logic behind these statements for a second: Why would you, a CEO or executive at a high-profile technology company, repeatedly return to the public stage to proclaim how worried you are about the product you are building and selling?

Answer: If apocalyptic doomsaying about the terrifying power of AI serves your marketing strategy.

AI, like other, more basic forms of automation, isn't a traditional business. Scaring off customers isn't a concern when what you're selling is the fearsome power that your service promises.

OpenAI has worked for years to carefully cultivate an image of itself as a team of hype-proof humanitarian scientists, pursuing AI for the good of all — which meant that when its moment arrived, the public would be well-primed to receive its apocalyptic AI proclamations credulously, as scary but impossible-to-ignore truths about the state of technology.

OpenAI was founded as a research nonprofit in 2015, with a large grant from Musk, a noted AI doomer, with the aim of "democratizing" AI. The company has long cultivated an air of dignified restraint in its AI endeavors; its stated aim was to research and develop the technology in a way that was responsible and transparent. The blog post announcing OpenAI declared, "Our goal is to advance digital intelligence in the way that is most likely to benefit humanity as a whole, unconstrained by a need to generate financial return."

For years, this led the media and AI scientists to treat the organization as if it was a research institution, which in turn allowed it to command greater levels of respect in the media and the academic community — and bear less scrutiny. It garnered good graces by sharing examples of how powerful its tools were becoming — OpenAI's bots winning an esports championship, early examples of entire articles written by its GPT-2 AI — while exhorting the need to be cautious, and keeping its models secret and out of the hands of bad actors.

In 2019, the company transitioned to a "capped" for-profit company, while continuing to insist its "primary fiduciary duty is to humanity." Last month, however, OpenAI announced that it was taking the formerly open source code that made its bots possible private. The rationale: Its product (which is available for purchase) was simply too powerful to risk falling into the wrong hands.

OpenAI's nonprofit background nonetheless imbued it with a halo of respectability when the company released a working paper with researchers from the University of Pennsylvania last month.

The research, which, again, was carried out by OpenAI itself, concluded that "most occupations" now "exhibit some degree of exposure" to large language models, or LLMs, such as the one underlying ChatGPT. Higher-wage occupations have more tasks with high exposure. And "approximately 19% of jobs" will see at least *half* of all the tasks they involve exposed to LLMs.

These findings were covered dutifully in the media, while critics, including Dan Greene, an assistant professor at University of Maryland's Information Studies College, pointed out that this was less a scientific assessment than a self-fulfilling prophecy. "You use the new tool to tell its own fortune," he said. "The point is not to be 'correct' but to mark down a boundary for public debate."

Whether OpenAI set out to become a for-profit company in the first place, the end result is the same: the unleashing of a science fiction-infused marketing frenzy unlike anything in recent memory.

Now, the benefits of this apocalyptic AI marketing are twofold. First, it encourages users to try the "scary" service in question — what better way to generate a buzz than to insist, with a certain presumed credibility, that your new technology is so potent it might unravel the world as we know it?

The second is more mundane: The bulk of OpenAI's income is unlikely to come from average users paying for premium-tier access. The business case for a rando paying monthly fees to access a chatbot that is marginally more interesting and useful than, say, Google Search, is highly unproven.

OpenAI knows this. It's almost certainly betting its longer-term future on more partnerships like the one with Microsoft and enterprise deals serving large companies.

That means convincing more corporations that if they want to survive the coming AI-led mass upheaval, they'd better climb aboard.

Enterprise deals have always been where automation technology has thrived — sure, a handful of consumers might be interested in streamlining their daily routine or automating tasks here and there, but the core sales target for productivity software or automated kiosks or robotics is management.

And a big driver in motivating companies to buy into automation technology is and always has been fear. The historian of technology David Noble demonstrated in his studies of industrial automation that the wave of workplace and factory floor automation that swept the 1970s and '80s was largely spurred by managers submitting to a highly pervasive phenomenon that today we recognize as FOMO. If companies believe a labor-saving technology is so powerful or efficient that their competitors are sure to adopt it, they don't want to miss out — regardless of the ultimate utility.

The great promise of OpenAI's suite of AI services is, at root, that companies and individuals will save on labor costs — they can generate the ad copy, art, slide deck presentations, email marketing and data entry processes fast and cheap.

This is not to suggest that OpenAI's image and text generators are not capable of interesting, amazing or even unsettling things. But the conflicted genius schtick that Altman and his OpenAI coterie are putting on is wearing thin. If you are genuinely concerned about the safety of your product, if you seriously want to be a responsible steward in the development of an artificially intelligent tool you believe to be ultra-powerful, you don't slap it onto a search engine where it can be accessed by billions of people; you don't open the floodgates.

Altman argues that the technology *needs* to be released, at this early stage, so that his team can make mistakes and address potential abuses "while the stakes are fairly low."

Implicit in this argument, however, is the notion that we should simply trust him and his newly cloistered company with how best to do so, even as they work to meet revenue projections of $1 billion next year.

I'm not saying don't be nervous about the onslaught of AI services — but I am saying be nervous for the right reasons. There's plenty to be wary about, especially given the prospect that companies most certainly will find the sales pitch alluring and whether it works, a lot of copywriters, coders and artists are suddenly going to find their work not necessarily replaced but devalued by the ubiquitous and much cheaper AI services on offer. (There's a reason artists have already launched a class-action lawsuit alleging AI systems were trained on their work.)

But the hand-wringing over an all-powerful "artificial general intelligence" and the incendiary hype tend to obscure those nearer-term concerns.

AI ethicists and researchers such as Timnit Gebru and Meredith Whittaker have been shouting into the void that an abstract fear of an imminent SkyNet misses the forest for the trees.

"One of the biggest harms of large language models is caused by *claiming* that LLMs have 'human-competitive intelligence,' " Gebru said.

There's a real and legitimate danger that this stuff will produce biased or even discriminatory results, help misinformation proliferate, steamroll over artists' intellectual property and more — especially because a lot of Big Tech companies just happen to have fired their AI ethics teams.

It's perfectly legitimate to be afraid of the power of a new technology. Just know that OpenAI — and all of the other AI companies that stand to cash in on the hype — very much want you to be.

AI could bring 4-day workweek, expert says

ChatGPT may mean a huge productivity boost and less time on the job, a Nobel laureate suggests.

BY TOM REES

SANG TAN Associated Press

"I'M VERY optimistic that we could increase productivity," professor Christopher Pissarides of the London School of Economics said while discussing chatbots.

The ChatGPT revolution opens the door to a four-day week by providing a major productivity boost for swathes of jobs, according to a Nobel Prize-winning labor economist.

Christopher Pissarides — a professor at the London School of Economics who specializes in the effects of automation on work — said the labor market can adapt quickly enough to artificial intelligence-backed chatbots.

His remarks tamp down concerns that rapid advances in technology could bring mass job losses.

"I'm very optimistic that we could increase productivity," he said in an interview at a conference in Glasgow. "We could increase our well-being generally from work and we could take off more leisure. We could move to a four-day week easily."

Chatbots, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard, have been hailed as a potentially transformative technology that could cause a productivity boom but also adversely affect hundreds of millions of white-collar jobs.

Pissarides has previously investigated the effects of automation on jobs through the Pissarides Review into the Future of Work and Wellbeing. He won a Nobel Prize in economics for his work on labor market frictions.

Pissarides said the technology could still take a malevolent turn, such as being used for surveillance. But he said it could make a "big difference" to productivity if used well.

"They could take away lots of boring things that we do at work ... and then leave only the interesting stuff to human beings," he said. The transition for workers will be made less painful by slower adoption by companies despite the technology "moving fast," he added.

Some are concerned about the effects the technology could have on society. Tech leaders, including Elon Musk, signed an open letter last month calling for a pause to the training of powerful AI systems.

"There's just no limit to how much work humanity could generate if they really want to work," Pissarides said. "It will take long to have a real impact and during that time people will adjust. What you need in this adjustment is basically upskilling."

His remarks follow a Goldman Sachs report that estimated 300 million jobs are exposed globally to generative AI, such as ChatGPT. The company's economists also said it could be transformative for productivity and GDP growth.

Advanced economies have suffered a shifting down in productivity gains since the financial crisis, slowing growth in gross domestic product markedly.

"The combination of significant labor cost savings, new job creation, and higher productivity for non-displaced workers raises the possibility of a productivity boom that raises economic growth substantially," Goldman's economists said in a report last month. "We estimate that AI could eventually increase annual global GDP by 7%."

Rees writes for Bloomberg.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Stocks mostly decline amid signs U.S. economy is slowing

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stocks on Wall Street mostly slipped on Wednesday following the latest signals that the U.S. economy is slowing under the weight of much higher interest rates.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 10.22 points, or 0.2%, to 4,090.38, a day after it broke a four-day winning streak. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 80.34 points, or 0.2%, to 33,482.72 and the Nasdaq composite dropped 129.47 points, or 1.1%, to 11,996.86.

Yields also fell in the bond market after weaker-than-expected reports on the health of U.S. services industries and the job market. They're the latest signs that the economy is slowing after a feverish set of hikes to interest rates by the Federal Reserve to try to get inflation under control.

One report from the Institute for Supply Management said that growth in the U.S. services sector slowed last month by more than economists expected, as the pace of new orders cooled. A separate report suggested that private employers added 145,000 jobs in March, down by close to half from February's number. Perhaps of greater interest to markets, pay raises also slowed for workers, according to the ADP Research Institute.

"Our March payroll data is one of several signals that the economy is slowing," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at ADP. "Employers are pulling back from a year of strong hiring, and pay growth, after a three-month plateau, is inching down."

Higher interest rates can undercut inflation, but only by slowing the entire economy with a blunt hammer. The hope is that the Fed can pull off the tricky balancing act of slowing the economy and job market just enough to stamp out high inflation, but not so much that it causes a recession. The Fed has hiked rates over the last year at the fastest pace in decades.

ADP's private payroll report could offer a sneak preview of what Friday's more comprehensive jobs report from the U.S. government will show. Economists expect it to say that employers added 240,000 jobs last month, down from 311,000 in February.

If the job market really is slowing from the strong growth that's helped to prop up the larger economy recently, it could offer the Fed reason to pause on its hikes to interest rates.

That's a big deal for markets not only because it could lessen the odds of an upcoming recession, which some economists already see as a high probability, but also because higher rates drag on prices for stocks, bonds and other investments.

Other reports on the economy this week also came in weaker than expected, including readings on the number of job openings across the country and the health of the manufacturing sector.

The reports have traders increasing bets for the Fed to hold rates steady at its next meeting in May, which would be the first time that's happened in more than a year. Many traders are also betting that the Fed will have to cut rates later this year, a move that can act like steroids for markets.

The Fed, though, has consistently said it doesn't expect to cut rates this year. Inflation is still high, and the Fed has talked often about the risk of letting up on the battle too soon. Other central banks around the world are staying aggressive to fight it.

New Zealand's central bank raised its key rate by half a percentage point to 5.25%, double the size of what many economists were expecting. It was the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's 11th straight rate hike as it tries to cool inflation.

On Wall Street, the majority of stocks in the S&P 500 fell, but many of the moves were modest.

On the winning side was Johnson & Johnson, which rose 4.5% after it proposed to pay nearly $9 billion to cover allegations that its baby powder containing talc caused cancer. It was one of the biggest drivers of the Dow's gain for Wednesday.

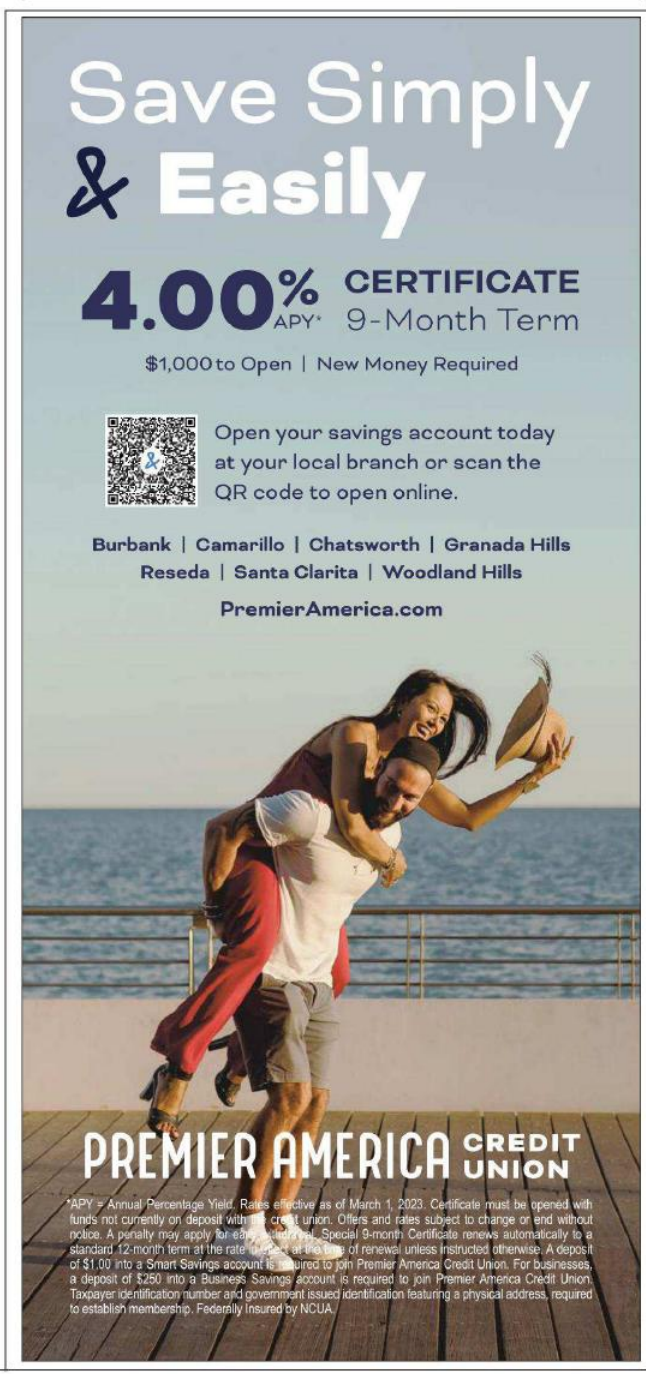
In the bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury, which influences rates for mortgages and other loans, dropped to 3.30% from 3.34%. The two-year yield, which tends to move more on expectations for the Fed, slipped to 3.80% from 3.82%.

Gold held relatively steady and slid $2.60 to settle at $2,035.60 per ounce. It's up more than 11% this year after jumping last month amid worries about the strength of the global banking system.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,482.72	+80.34	+0.24	+1.01
S&P 500	4,090.38	-10.22	-0.25	+6.53
Nasdaq composite	11,996.86	-129.47	-1.07	+14.62
S&P 400	2,451.54	-16.65	-0.67	+0.87
Russell 2000	1,752.13	-17.53	-0.99	-0.52
EuroStoxx 50	4,293.10	-22.22	-0.51	+13.21
Nikkei (Japan)	27,813.26	-474.16	-1.68	+6.59
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	20,274.59	-134.59	-0.66	+2.49

Associated Press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PREMIER AMERICA CREDIT UNION
*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates effective as of March 1, 2023. Certificate must be opened with funds not currently on deposit with this credit union. Offers and rates subject to change or end without notice. A penalty may apply for early withdrawal. Special 9-month Certificate renews automatically to a standard 12-month term at the rate in effect at the time of renewal unless instructed otherwise. A deposit of $1,00 into a Smart Savings account is required to join Premier America Credit Union. For businesses, a deposit of $250 into a Business Savings account is required to join Premier America Credit Union. Taxpayer identification number and government issued identification featuring a physical address, required to establish membership. Federally Insured by NCUA.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Jake Arians

ENTERTAINMENT

Jake Arians
Talent Concierge Artists Agency

Talent Concierge Artists Agency (TCAA), a boutique full-service artists management agency, announced that Jake Arians will be joining the organization as Chief Sports Agent. In this role, Jake will lead a dedicated team of sports agents to enhance players' careers on and off the field.

Najee Goode

Walter Thurmond III

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Najee Goode, Walter Thurmond III
Office Beacon

Office Beacon names Super Bowl Champions Najee Goode and Walter Thurmond III as Sales Directors

Los Angeles, CA - Office Beacon, a leading provider of remote staffing, has recently expanded its team by appointing two Sales Directors, Walter Thurmond III and Najee Goode, both Super Bowl champions. Thurmond played in the NFL for six seasons, including his participation in Super Bowl XLVIII, while Goode played for eight seasons, including as a member of the Eagles Super Bowl LII championship team. Expressing their enthusiasm, Thurmond stated, "I am excited to join Office Beacon and bring my skills and experience to this new challenge," Goode added, "I am honored to be a part of such a successful organization."

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Unemployment benefits for migrants without legal papers

These California workers pay taxes and should be eligible for assistance when they are laid off.

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

AN UNDOCUMENTED worker waits with her daughter to receive financial help during the pandemic. Such workers have no access to unemployment support.

Most workers in California who lose their job are eligible to receive a portion of their salary while they look for another job. Excluded from unemployment benefits, however, are an estimated 1.6 million undocumented workers, whose labor we rely on to pick vegetables and fruits in the fields, care for children, mow lawns and build new homes, even though many of these workers pay taxes.

There's a proposal in the state Legislature to remedy this injustice for many of these undocumented workers. Senate Bill 227, authored by Sen. Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles), would create the Excluded Workers Program, a fund separate from the state's unemployment program that would provide unemployment payments to undocumented workers who meet requirements similar to those imposed on workers who are U.S. citizens or otherwise authorized to work in the country.

The bill is sponsored by the Safety Net for All coalition of more than 160 immigrant and worker rights organizations and supported by the National Employment Law Project and the California Budget & Policy Center.

Undocumented workers are excluded from receiving unemployment benefits because the state's unemployment insurance program is jointly funded by the federal government, which bars undocumented people from working legally. But these workers have become deeply embedded in the state economy, forming the backbone of many California industries, particularly agriculture, which supplies more than one-third of the vegetables and three-quarters of the fruits and nuts grown in the United States. This industry cannot survive without workers to pick and pack crops.

Unemployment hits farmworkers particularly hard because they earn low wages and depend on seasonal jobs and risk going hungry or becoming homeless during the industry's frequent layoffs.

The Excluded Worker Program would make it possible for the state to pay unemployment benefits to undocumented workers when they are laid off, if they can prove they worked at least 93 hours or earned a minimum of $1,300 in a three-month period in the previous 12 months. Those who qualify would receive $300 each week for up to 20 weeks. The maximum benefit under the state unemployment program is $450 per week, with the average payment about $330 per week, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office. The two-year program would allow policymakers to evaluate the program before considering making it permanent.

One big obstacle for this program is the fact that the governor vetoed a nearly identical proposal, Assembly Bill 2847 by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia (D-Coachella), last year. In his veto message, Gov. Gavin Newsom said it would cost $200 million to set up, and $20 million in ongoing funds. He said that future proposals need a dedicated funding source.

Newsom was right to try to rein in state spending, given the expectation of a state budget deficit of $22.5 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. The California Taxpayers Assn., which opposes the bill, wants the state to prioritize upgrades to avoid widespread fraud during the pandemic.

It's disappointing that the author of this year's bill didn't come up with a clear funding source, but there's time to reshape the measure into something the governor will support. Besides, employers are already paying taxes into the state's unemployment program for these workers. In 2020, the Fiscal Policy Institute estimated that over the previous decade California employers paid about $4.4 billion into the unemployment system based on the work of undocumented immigrants.

It's simply unacceptable that these vulnerable workers, so essential to California's economy, have no access to unemployment support. Lawmakers must find a way to provide help for this segment of the labor force when they need it the most.

LETTERS

CAROLYN KASTER Associated Press

MEMBERS OF the far-right group Proud Boys march in Washington before the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Ethan Nordean, seen with a bullhorn, was later charged with seditious conspiracy.

Dear modern American fascists

Re "Why fascism became 'cool' in America," Opinion, April 2

If anyone depicted in Omer Aziz's op-ed article is reading this (which I doubt), here are some thoughts you may want to consider in your future planning.

As powerful and entitled as you may feel in your pod, cult or group, your ideology does not pay off in the long game. Political, racial and religious bullying have a price to pay.

It may not seem so surrounded by like-minded followers who believe they can overcome well-conceived laws and structures meant to protect society. Though these systems may not be as perfect as we would like, they still have a more lasting quality than whatever the neo-Nazis, Proud Boys or QAnon can come up with.

Look how history played out for past brutal authoritarians. Saddam Hussein was hanged. Moammar Kadafi was beaten to a pulp, then shot. Benito Mussolini was hanged in public. Adolf Hitler shot himself in humiliation and defeat.

This doesn't say much for following a cause built on hatred and bullying.

BEVERLY LEVER, Calabasas

Aziz's op-ed article should be mandatory reading for all Americans so they can better appreciate the degree to which the Republican Party has transformed from the conventional conservative organization of the past into a flat-out fascist entity today.

The folks to whom Aziz is referring are largely part of the "Make America Great Again" brigade. They are overwhelmingly white, male and under-educated. They also harbor a great deal of misogyny and bigotry.

Most tragically, they have found a welcoming home in today's Republican Party.

After all, Republicans have been appealing to this crowd for about 50 years now, culminating in their embrace of Donald Trump in 2016. Appealing to the southern Dixiecrats, as Richard Nixon did back in 1968, produced the unintentional consequences we are witnessing in 2023.

BOB TEIGAN
Santa Susana

This all started back in 2016

Re "Trump pleads not guilty to 34 charges," April 5

Former President Trump's arraignment in New York is only the beginning of overwrought courtroom scenes befitting a banana republic.

The nightmare inexorably will long endure. More arraignments in other jurisdictions. Flurries of pretrial legal motions. Jury selections bogged down by the unprecedented difficulty of finding truly unbiased jurors.

Finally, circus-like trials and maybe even retrials.

All of which underscores the fears shared by untold millions of Americans in 2016: that the election of a reality-show impresario with no government experience presaged our nation's devolution into a banana republic.

DEVRA MINDELL
Santa Monica

Now that Trump has been indicted and arraigned, New Yorkers can breathe easier knowing that there will be a rapid drop in crime and the streets will be safe again. Or not.

It's as if Trump is guilty until he can prove his innocence. What happened to presumed innocent until proved guilty?

PATRICK KELLEY
Los Angeles

::

Trump's indictment in New York and the lack of action in Atlanta are bad news for his political opponents.

The Georgia issue is clear-cut. Everyone has heard the recordings of Trump trying to get election officials there to "find" enough votes to overturn the 2020 result.

The New York case is iffy and plays into Trump's narrative. If he wins, it's a victory. If he loses, he can appeal and keep his name in the news for a year.

People knew what Trump was when they voted for him. The outcome of this case isn't going to change that.

LEW LIVINGSTON
Orange

::

Watching a former president submit to an arraignment reminds me that an ounce of prevention is worth more than a ton of cure.

Trump has harmed so many and so much. I didn't know if I was going to survive his presidency (many didn't), and our democracy may have been irreparably undermined by him.

IM JUNG KWUON
Porter Ranch

::

Perhaps Trump and Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg should exchange surnames.

JEAN TANNER
Marina del Rey

It's a car — no, it's a tank

Re "Hulking SUVs and trucks are deadly to pedestrians," editorial, April 4

In response to the excellent editorial regarding the threat to pedestrians posed by supersized sport-utility vehicles and trucks, I would also like to mention the same regarding oversized vehicles versus sedans in crashes.

As with the pedestrians who incur terrible injuries due to SUVs and trucks, the drivers of small to mid-sized cars are being unfairly injured in crashes involving oversized vehicles. The insurance industry needs to dramatically increase the personal injury and liability requirements on all oversized automobiles.

It's time for the drivers of these huge vehicles to pay a price for the human suffering they cause.

CRAIG FISHER
Toluca Lake

You ask why the federal government is not trying to do anything about the size of new vehicles. Isn't it likely because of the economic consequences?

Slowing the manufacture and take rate by the public of these products would have an immense downstream effect.

Like The Times' editorial board, I'd like to see things change with regard to the size of the most popular cars in the U.S. But it may take a very long time.

LYNN BALSAMO
Santa Monica

::

I drive a Mazda Miata. This small, two-seat vehicle is all the car I want or need as a single, childless person, and it's a joy to drive.

But not in this city.

I've been nearly T-boned by drivers who speed through red lights. I was recently hit by someone who insanely tried to speed around me on my left while I was making a left turn. If he had been in one of those SUVs, it wouldn't have simply been a smashed fender and axle — it would have landed me in the hospital or worse.

No one needs a vehicle the size of a military tank. Period.

MICKEY FIELDING
Baldwin Hills

::

I know many people who have upsized their vehicles. Of course, they are not thinking of pedestrians; their motivation is their own safety.

Everyone sees drivers speeding, running red lights or engaging in other dangerous behavior every time we venture out.

If hit, being in a larger vehicle adds an element of protection, or so it is thought.

Maybe mandatory warning sensors on the front of high-profile vehicles for objects below the driver's line of sight might help prevent some pedestrian crashes.

ALAN H. SIMON
Sherman Oaks

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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OP-ED

Don't forget what Marjorie Taylor Greene deserves

Extremist, antidemocratic lawmaker wins even more inordinate attention with a coveted prime-time tribute.

JACKIE CALMES

THEY DIDN'T LISTEN to me over at CBS, not that I'm surprised.

The fact is, though, "60 Minutes" producers and correspondent Lesley Stahl probably were already at work on Sunday's prime-time 14-minute tribute to Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene when I wrote here a month ago that we Americans should ignore the extremist Republican congresswoman as much as possible. That we should adapt her bonkers idea of "a national divorce" — a severing of red states from blue — to instead quit *her*.

The inordinate attention Greene gets is her oxygen, allowing her to spread the outrageous, divisive messages and far-right conspiracy theories that endear her to white nationalist audiences, and make her a fundraising juggernaut.

And now here I am, (sheepishly) feeling like Michael Corleone in "The Godfather Part III": "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in."

However, "they" isn't so much Greene and her antics as it is the media. Too many reporters, assignment editors and producers are obsessed about covering attention-addicted, antidemocratic demagogues like the congresswoman and her idol, Donald Trump. Tuesday was a twofer: Reporters swarmed Manhattan to cover both the arraignment of the former president on criminal charges, and the pro-Trump rally there for which Greene was the self-appointed head cheerleader.

"Trump is joining some of the most incredible people in history being arrested today," she told Right Side Broadcasting Network. "Nelson Mandela was arrested, served time in prison. Jesus! — Jesus was arrested and murdered by the Roman government." (Not only did Greene not get any pushback for those idiotic parallels, she got a peck on the cheek afterward from the interviewer for the right-wing network, a man she has been dating.)

The Trump Show was back, and the star was sharing the limelight with a real-life Apprentice and successor in waiting.

For a while, I thought the media, especially the cable news networks, were repenting of their journalistic sins in 2015 and 2016, when news outlets lavished billions of dollars worth of free air time and countless inches of print on the performative Trump and his hate-mongering. Even Fox News is no longer carrying every Trump rally live and in full.

Or maybe they hadn't seen the light, just that the ratings, clicks and ad dollars weren't what they used to be.

Whether an indicted Trump reclaims the media's attention on the old scale or not, Greene represents new material and a fresh face for news outlets that thrive on controversy and conflict.

I'm reminded yet again of what disgraced former CBS chief Les Moonves said back in 2016 about hyper-covering Trump: "It may not be good for America, but it's damn good for CBS."

His successors at the network must be saying the same thing about Greene. Yes, she's a newsmaker, but that doesn't justify the coveted prize of a profile on the venerable "60 Minutes." And it really doesn't justify so lightly challenging a woman who still considers Trump the real president.

Just a week before the profile aired, Greene led a tour of the D.C. jail, to visit the defendants there — "political prisoners," she calls them — charged with crimes related to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. In December she said that if she'd organized events that day, "We would have won. ... Not to mention, it would have been armed."

Yet Stahl didn't ask Greene about the 2020 presidential election or the terrorist assault on the Capitol, even though Greene and like-minded Republicans are using their House majority to rewrite history on both.

Instead, Stahl sympathetically repeated to a stricken-looking Greene some epithets that folks in both parties have used against her. But she didn't follow with examples of the many attacks Greene has dished against others. Later in the piece, Stahl did confront Greene about calling Democrats "pedophiles." But when Greene unabashedly owned the statement, Stahl was literally — and naively — rendered nearly speechless. "Wow," she muttered, and rolled her eyes.

So predictably emboldened was Greene by the exchange that she tweeted this the next day: "I'll say it again: Democrats are the party of pedophiles," linking to a reprehensible video titled "The Predator President." It mashed up clips of Biden with children — including his poignant encounter with a boy who, like the president, stutters — as evidence of the president's purported depravity.

Greene denied to Stahl that she had once "liked" a social media post suggesting someone fire a bullet into then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's head. Maybe her staff did it, she claimed. Stahl might have followed up with something more current: like whether Greene takes any responsibility when such attacks encourage an unhinged extremist to pound a hammer into the head of Pelosi's husband, Paul. But no.

Clearly Stahl spent lots of time with Greene. There was video of the two women talking in Washington, at Greene's white-columned manse in Georgia, on the streets in her rural district with Greene's admiring constituents, and even in the gym, where Greene lifted weights.

But Stahl apparently didn't spend as much time researching Greene's record. She introduced Greene with the discordant observation that she's "known to be smart and fearless, and has a history of believing in conspiracy theories." Stahl said Greene is "influencing the direction of Republican policies" but didn't say which ones. In fact, Greene (like Trump) reflects a Republican Party that has become policy-phobic. Culture wars are their thing.

At least Stahl brought up the looming showdown with President Biden and Democrats in Congress over raising the nation's debt limit so the government can pay its bills. Greene reiterated Republicans' ransom for their votes — big spending cuts — and Stahl pushed for specifics. But when Greene replied with the weak party line — cut Biden's green-energy programs — Stahl failed to note what's been widely reported: One of the biggest beneficiaries so far is a job-creating solar-panel manufacturer in Greene's district.

Late Sunday, Greene told the news website Semafor that she liked the "60 Minutes" piece. No wonder. If you're trying to normalize the egregiously abnormal, what wasn't to like?

@jackiekcalmes

SERGEI GRITS Associated Press

FLAGS FOR Finland and NATO fly at the Finnish capital of Helsinki on Tuesday.

Now that Finland is part of NATO, can it help Ukraine?

Amid cheers for a new member, some downsides to consider

By Emma Ashford

OFFICIALS AT THE North Atlantic Treaty Organization were celebrating at their headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday as the alliance welcomed Finland into its fold. In joining NATO, Finland has abandoned a 75-year tradition of military neutrality, throwing its lot in with the West against an increasingly isolated Russia.

The announcement is undoubtedly a black eye for Russian President Vladimir Putin, as his neighbor takes a side. But U.S. and European policymakers should not exaggerate what's to come. NATO expansion is not a panacea. It will neither resolve the war in Ukraine nor fix the more serious underlying problems of European defense.

This week's accession ceremony allowed policymakers to take a victory lap. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony J. Blinken, in attendance to receive Finland's accession documents, noted that the alliance is now "more united than ever," along with an offhanded remark that perhaps "this is the one thing we can thank Mr. Putin for." British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak went further, arguing that Finland's NATO membership "makes every one of us safer," while German Chancellor Olaf Scholz described the event as a "victory for transatlantic security."

Finland was less controversial to NATO members than some of the other countries that have sought membership in recent years, such as Ukraine or Georgia. Even critics of expanding NATO tend to acknowledge that Finland has a long history of territorial self-defense. The nation spends adequate amounts on its military and is already somewhat integrated with nearby NATO member states.

Yet there are downsides: The length of NATO's border with Russia has now almost doubled. Finland shares an 800-mile border with Russia, raising NATO's risks of direct confrontation with Moscow. As fighting continues into its second year in Ukraine, Finland is already an ardent supporter of Kyiv. It has contributed large sums and military equipment — around 900 million euros so far, plus 400 million euros in future commitments — while providing strong political backing for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's government. It will not bring significantly more funds or ammunition to the fight as a NATO member. Western leaders have overstated the extent to which Finland's military power can beef up efforts against Russia.

Instead, the conflict is increasingly dependent on manpower and ammunition constraints on both sides, as the fighting intensifies over small areas of the map. The Russians have poured men and equipment into a relatively ineffectual campaign in Bakhmut in recent months, and it is not yet clear whether Ukraine's widely expected spring offensive can seize back significant territory. Many discussions in European capitals seem resigned to a long war, a stalemate or an informal armistice.

NATO's expansion to Finland also doesn't do much to improve European defense more broadly. Observers are right that Finland offers an example of the kind of resilient, defensive mindset that some members of the alliance badly need. But after the shock of last year's invasion of Ukraine, many European states are falling back into old habits: relying on the U.S. to provide on-the-ground security in Eastern Europe, failing to develop appropriate military forces, and defaulting to protectionism rather than building a common European defense-industrial base.

Some worry that the "Zeitenwende" — the much-praised 2022 shift in European security attitudes — has yielded some increased spending from European states but little in the way of genuine policy shifts. And the delay of Sweden's joining NATO serves to highlight the alliance's ongoing problems with internal cohesion on some issues. NATO members are on board with support for Ukraine in its war against Russia, but often have divergent views on other security matters.

This might all sound like a petty complaint. After all, who can blame Western policymakers for wanting to highlight a win in the current environment? And surely, critics would argue, no one could possibly expect NATO expansion to a new member state to fix *all* of the alliance's internal squabbles.

Even so, it's worth noting that NATO has a history of substituting expansion for genuine problem-solving. Indeed, for the two decades following the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO's leaders punted on questions about the alliance's future, its purpose and its military capabilities in favor of a focus on expansion to include the nations of Eastern Europe. Until at least 2008, debates about expansion were a central focus of many of the alliance's summits.

There's already talk about negotiations to admit Ukraine to NATO in some form after the war. Polish President Andrzej Duda, playing host to Zelensky this week in Warsaw, promised to raise the issue of security guarantees for Ukraine at the next NATO summit.

For now, NATO's leaders have more pressing issues to discuss, including how to handle the dwindling European stockpiles of arms and how the war in Ukraine may end. Finland's membership won't answer those questions.

EMMA ASHFORD is a senior fellow at the Stimson Center and an adjunct professor in Georgetown University's Security Studies Program.
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Trump prosecution's overlooked strengths

HARRY LITMAN

MANHATTAN DIST. Atty. Alvin Bragg's indictment of former President Trump takes an open-ended approach to the charges that some critics of the unprecedented prosecution see as a weakness. What the detractors have overlooked are the substantial and unanticipated legal and factual strengths in the case Bragg outlined.

A key question in advance of Tuesday's unsealing of the indictment concerned how Bragg would augment the easily proven misdemeanor charges of falsifying business records. Under New York law, those offenses become felonies only if they're in furtherance of another crime. Many theories were circulating as to what second crime Bragg would allege, and most of the possibilities had noteworthy shortcomings.

Bragg's answer was essentially "I'll tell you later." He took advantage of the wording of the state law, which requires only that the misdemeanor be done in service of "a crime," to buy himself maximum time and flexibility.

Bragg may have to pick his crime down the line, perhaps in answer to an expected defense motion for a "bill of particulars" — that is, a fleshing out of the Delphic indictment to enable Trump's team to prepare an appropriate defense.

Manhattan Dist. Atty. Alvin Bragg could elevate falsification of business records into a felony by showing mere intent to aid or conceal another crime.

On the other hand, the prosecutor may *not* have to specify a second crime. The jury instructions on falsification of business records say it's a felony if the defendant acted "with intent to defraud that included an intent to commit another crime or to aid or conceal the commission thereof." It's therefore not clear that they require the jury even to agree on what the augmenting crime is.

But Bragg this week also added a potent possible second crime beyond what many observers expected. It emerges from the fact that in making his lawyer Michael Cohen "whole" for the hush money he paid to Stormy Daniels, Trump included enough to compensate Cohen for the taxes he would have to pay on the "income" — that is, on the phony legal retainer that camouflaged the hush money.

It's not clear whether Cohen in fact declared and paid taxes on the reimbursement or whether the Trump Organization declared it as a business expense. The Bragg team's insight is that it doesn't matter: The language that elevates business record falsification to a felony requires only "an intent to commit another crime or to aid or conceal the commission thereof."

That purposely encompasses what lawyers call "inchoate" crimes. The law would plainly be satisfied by the inclusion of money intended to commit or conceal another crime — namely, a false tax filing — whether or not that crime occurred.

Importantly, this theory could be a way around the legal questions inherent in alleging that the second crime was a state or federal campaign finance violation.

Alleging a campaign finance violation would also raise a factual dispute over whether the hush money was really paid to buoy Trump's electoral prospects. Team Trump continues to suggest that the actual purpose of the payout was "to prevent something coming out [that was] false but embarrassing to himself, his family, his young son," as Trump lawyer Joe Tacopina put it.

That is a far-fetched theory to be sure: The idea that Trump may not be a loyal spouse wouldn't come as a shock to most people, let alone those who know him best. But in a setting in which the prosecution must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt, the claim that he was trying to protect his family's feelings can't be totally disregarded.

Here is where it's important that Bragg alleged an entire course of conduct — not just the Daniels payout but also a broader "scheme to boost [Trump's] election prospects" by squelching other potentially damaging stories. Bragg pointedly emphasized that much in his spare public statements this week, suggesting that David Pecker, the former chief executive of the National Enquirer's parent company, will be a critical witness.

Bragg's "statement of facts" supplied a nugget of new information that blows the Trump team's alternative explanation of the payment out of the water. It notes Trump told Cohen that "if they could delay the payment [to Daniels] until after the election, they could avoid paying altogether, because at that point it would not matter if the story became public."

If the jury credits that statement, it will demolish the argument that Trump sought only to conceal the tawdry facts from Melania. In fact, it proves that Trump was fine with broadcasting the affair to his family and the rest of the world once his election was secured.

So even as Bragg hedged his bets with a skeletal indictment, his statement of facts and public comments reveal a clear path to a felony conviction: showing that Trump's falsification of business records was meant to aid and conceal a tax offense (whether or not it occurred) and to prevent a revelation that would damage his campaign on the eve of the election.

HARRY LITMAN is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast.
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ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE MOON AT DAWN

Visitors to the Huntington Beach Pier on Wednesday catch a scenic view of the full Pink Moon, named for blooming wildflowers.

Heavy rains pack delayed bite

'More water means more mosquitoes,' vector control officials warn after storms

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

After a parade of storms battered the state, Californians are enjoying an extended stretch of sunshine and warmer temperatures.

But the return of pleasant weather this year could bring more than suntans as the deluges provided fertile ground for mosquitoes.

"More water means more mosquitoes," said Joel Buettner, general manager of the Placer Mosquito & Vector Control District in Northern California.

Although the storms provided much-needed moisture to parched hillsides and reservoirs, they also left standing water — and mosquitoes thrive in the still water commonly found in backyards, such as in buckets and disused swimming pools.

"One of the big ones for us, in terms of mosquito production, are these unmaintained swimming pools," said Steve Vetrone, director of scientific-technical services for the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District.

In usually rain-starved Southern California, unused pools remain dry or pumped out, or collect just small amounts of rainwater that evaporate in the next heat wave.

"But now with the rain, those pools have collected a significant amount of water," Vetrone said, "and those are the sources that are going to be quite problematic for us in terms of getting a handle on mosquito control."

L.A. County vector control scouts for unmaintained pools using multiple methods, including aerial and satellite photography and law enforcement aircraft, to find and identify pools that have become stagnant.

"We're aware of a lot of them," Vetrone said. "But obviously these pools tend to go out of commission without us knowing all the time."

"So we rely on folks calling us that there's a mosquito issue," he said, "and then ... our technicians will go out and do a treatment if necessary."

The prevalence of invasive species of mosquitoes could also cause issues as the weather warms up.

The species *aedes aegypti*, which is more likely to spread viruses Zika and dengue, and *aedes albopictus*, which feeds on animals as well as humans, are "very much container breeders," Vetrone said.

The mosquitoes' eggs can survive a couple of years in the correct dry conditions, and now the rains have provided perfect conditions

[See **Mosquitoes,** B2]

3 FOUND DEAD IN SKID ROW

Drugs suspected after bodies discovered in a building owned by troubled housing trust.

BY RICHARD WINTON, RUBEN VIVES, DOUG SMITH AND LIAM DILLON

Three people were found dead Wednesday inside a building in downtown Los Angeles, authorities said.

The bodies, one female adult and two male adults, were discovered inside 649 Lofts, a building that provides housing to underprivileged residents in the skid row area. A community medical facility is housed on the first floor.

A law enforcement source with knowledge of the case said detectives suspected the deaths were tied to drug overdoses, possibly involving fentanyl.

But they stressed the probe was in its early stages.

Los Angeles Fire Department officials said the call came at 3:14 p.m.

The incident occurred at a property owned by Skid Row Housing Trust, a nonprofit housing provider whose buildings have become so distressed that last week Mayor Karen Bass and City Atty. Hydee Feldstein Soto asked for a court-appointed receiver to take them over. Earlier this year, the organization's interim chief executive acknowledged that the trust could no longer support its 29 residential buildings — many of them operating in the red — and appealed for others on firmer financial footing to

[See **Skid row,** B2]

Inmates face high prices, suits say

Jails overcharge for calls and commissary goods, say lawyers seeking payback.

BY KERI BLAKINGER

The high price of jail phone calls and commissary purchases is the focus of a pair of proposed class-action lawsuits filed in Los Angeles and San Diego counties, the opening volleys in what could become a sprawling legal battle over who should bear the cost of funding certain jail services.

The first claim, filed in San Diego state court last week, accuses the county of marking up commissary items — the food and hygiene products that inmates can purchase in jail — so much it amounts to an illegal tax on inmates and their families. The second suit, filed Tuesday in Los Angeles, echoes that allegation but adds claims about the high price of phone calls.

Lawyers are asking the counties to pay inmates and their families back for almost two years of markups on food and phone calls, an uncertain price tag they say could easily reach tens of millions.

"This is a really unjust

[See **Jails,** B5]

WESLEY LAPOINTE Los Angeles Times

VASHAWN PREJEAN hangs out the window of a League of Clowns truck driven by Brenesha Mack. The Los Angeles dance crew is a family of sorts.

A CLOWN CAR FULL OF LEGACY

Hip-hop dance crew follows a tradition that originated and flourished in South Los Angeles

BY WESLEY LAPOINTE

On a warm Saturday evening in Carson, two dozen young Black performers packed a pair of Chevy Suburbans and a Dodge Charger on their way to a celebration. The vehicles were emblazoned with the crew's name, the League of Clowns; a booking number; and the painted face of its founder, Jesse Philpott, aka Roc'co Tha Clown.

Hip-hop samples blasted from the lead Suburban as the performers approached Maison Jackson's 5th birthday party.

Moments after parking, Philpott jumped from the truck and launched into a hip-hop clown dance, a style that originated at South L.A. birthday parties in the early '90s and led to the rise of krumping a few years later.

Sporting a League of Clowns jersey, a jester hat and his signature face paint, Philpott lurched toward the crowd. He swung his bandanna around his head, tossed it on the ground and bounced from side to side with the rhythm — fluid one minute, jerky the next.

Then, with a loud coach's whistle, he summoned his crew. Fellow clowns, from 35-year-old "Bashful" to 4-year-old "Bam Bam," each cycled through with their own routine and

[See **Clown,** B2]

CAPITOL JOURNAL

Storms have some ecological upsides for Golden State

GEORGE SKELTON
IN SACRAMENTO

Drought-busting storms this season have given California priceless opportunities on two ecological fronts.

We're practically drowning in water already, and the heavy runoff of record Sierra snow hasn't even begun.

First, we'll have previously unimagined volumes of water to generate clean hydroelectric power. That means burning less dirty fossil fuel and less likelihood of power blackouts.

Hydro has been a basically overlooked benefit of our three-month drenching.

Second, we can now earnestly pursue the ambitious task of refilling our depleted underground reservoirs, the sinking aquifers that have been irresponsibly overpumped for decades, mostly by farmers.

But it's not as easy as it might seem. Water doesn't easily percolate everywhere. Sometimes it just evaporates unused, as is likely in the huge, newly reborn Tulare Lake in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

These storms have wreaked havoc in many regions — bursting levees, flooding crops, inundating residential neighborhoods and washing out roadways.

But they've been a godsend — at least for this year — in the fight against climate change and our attempt to increase production of clean energy, weaning us off global-warming natural gas in generating electricity.

And there'll be lots more water to replenish aquifers, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, where hundreds of wells have gone dry

[See **Skelton,** B5]

Tech executive is stabbed in San Francisco

Death of Cash App founder Bob Lee revives concerns from some high-profile figures over public safety. **B3**

City settles claim of rape by cop

Brawley will pay $1 million to a woman who said the officer arrested and then assaulted her. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: Kings trying to measure up to Oilers, Helene Elliott writes. **B10**

A clown family, a hip-hop legacy

[**Clown,** from B1]
style.

The dancers are a family of sorts, and by focusing on clowning and school, Philpott aims to keep them on a path that sidesteps gangs and street violence in South Los Angeles. They're also torchbearers for a 30-year-old tradition that originated and flourished in South Los Angeles, evidence of a legacy that continues to build community.

::

Philpott, 38, grew up in Watts and then Hawthorne, with his mom and two older brothers. He attended a series of high schools and was expelled from each for fighting. Evenings were often spent with local gang members.

He wasn't a dancer by any means, Philpott said, but he picked up a few moves from the sidelines while watching his brother dance at parties. He auditioned for his first clown group in 2000. Before long, his days were consumed by "school, dance and sleep," he said. Dance gave Philpott a new community, and a new identity.

"On the gangbanger side, you wanna be the man. You wanna be known. You want people to fear you," Philpott said. "And on the clown side, you're still getting known, but now people look up to you. They wanna be like you."

With one important exception.

His plans to dance were at odds with his mother's idea of a stable career.

"She basically told me, 'You go to the Army or the Navy or you get out of my house.' "

After he graduated from R.K. Lloyde Continuation High School in Lawndale, he left.

For the first few years away from home, Philpott didn't earn money from clowning, so he developed a side hustle — airbrushing — that he continues to this day. His big break came from an invitation to join Thomas Johnson, who is widely acknowledged as the originator of clown dancing and has been working birthday parties and other events for decades as Tommy the Clown.

Johnson launched the city's first clown-dancing group in the mid-'90s and became the center of a quickly growing universe of dancers. From the beginning, Johnson had encouraged dance battles between young partygoers as a way to blow off steam and have fun.

"The kids loved to compete without having to fight and be angry," Johnson said.

In the early 2000s, he started hosting weekly clown-dancing battles, pushing the performances in a rougher, more hyperkinetic direction: krumping, characterized by frenetic, exaggerated movements — chest popping, arm swinging, splitting and flipping, resembling, yet always stopping short of, a physical fight.

Photographs by WESLEY LAPOINTE Los Angeles Times

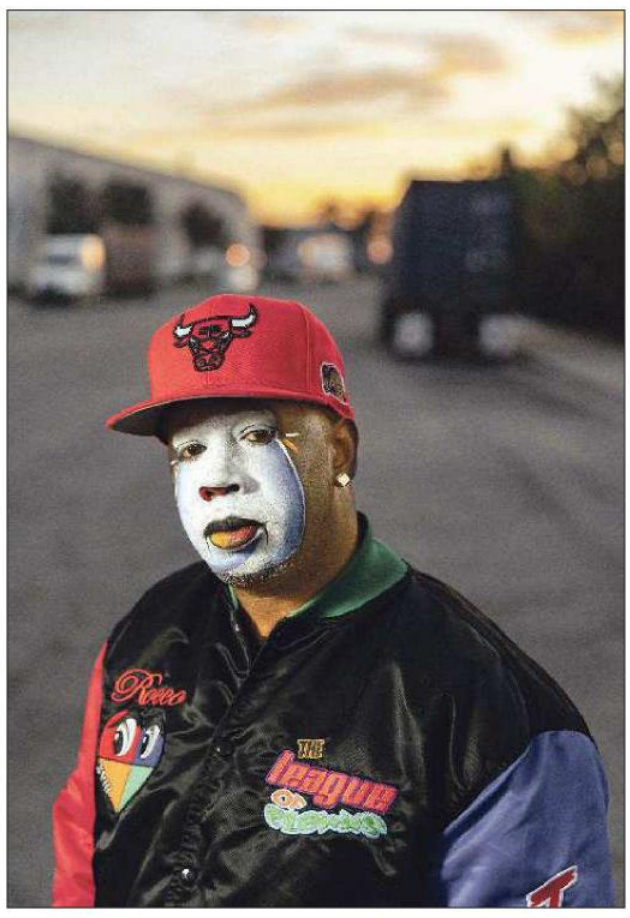
A CHILD dances in a ring of peers at a birthday party in Carson. Hip-hop clown dancing originated in the 1990s and flourished as a way for partygoers to blow off steam. In the early 2000s, it evolved into krumping.

It didn't take long for Hollywood to catch on, and production companies began to reach out to krumpers about backup dancing in music videos. Between the 2005 documentary "Rize," which focused on Johnson and the dance culture he paved the way for, and subsequent television deals, entertainment events and tours across Europe, Asia and the South Pacific, krumping gained a global fan base.

Along the way, Philpott became Johnson's right-hand man, joining him on international stages and handling parties at home with his own truck and dancers from T-Squad, Johnson's crew. For a few years after "Rize" was released, they taught clowning classes and held battles — called Freestyle Fridays — at the Debbie Allen School of Dance. A young Chris Brown came to train with them in the late 2000s, and other celebrities, including Snoop Dogg and Madonna, have hired Johnson and his crew over the years to perform in videos, on stages and at private parties.

After 16 years under Johnson's wing, Philpott left the T-Squad in 2018. The feast-or-famine lifestyle — ranging from getting a portion of international performance fees to scraping by at home if they weren't performing or booking enough parties— was wearing him down. His plan was to become a full-time airbrush artist. But Philpott said a series of conversations with pastors and friends convinced him to test out the idea of his own crew. He announced his auditions on Instagram in April 2018 and began receiving bookings before he even had dancers.

With nearly a million followers across his social channels, and consistently sold-out dance battles, Johnson remains the face of the hip-hop clown and krumping community. But Philpott and the League of Clowns are growing steadily. Philpott provides lessons, a wardrobe, food and transportation to his clowns. Following in Tommy's footsteps, he's also secured entertainment and brand deals for a few of his clowns, including a YG music video and a campaign with the fashion label Off-White.



> 'You know, everybody ain't gonna be able to play baseball. But most of the youth out here in the city are able to shake a leg a little bit.'
>
> — JESSE PHILPOTT, aka Roc'co Tha Clown, founder of the League of Clowns

In 2020, Philpott sponsored a clown group to begin performing in Louisiana, and he dreams of spreading the League of Clowns to youths across the country. "You know, everybody ain't gonna be able to play baseball," he said. "But most of the youth out here in the city are able to shake a leg a little bit."

::

Before his mother died in 2016, she came to two parties her son had led for Johnson. After watching his crew perform and the way the children loved them, Philpott said, his mother told him she was proud that he stuck to clowning. "She was able to see before she died that we touched some people."

Philpott's dancers are testimony.

Mya Henry said memories of watching the hip-hop clowns as a child inspired her to give her all at each performance, adding, "Every single party is like a full-circle moment."

Henry graduated from Torrance High School in spring, and after a summer full of clowning — her signature face paint is a bold multicolored handprint — she left Los Angeles in the fall to study business at Clark Atlanta University. She said Philpott has been calling regularly to check on her and make sure she's staying on top of her studies.

"It's not about dance for him," she said. "It's about teaching kids that whatever they want to do, they can. And he helps us get the tools to do that."

::

The party in Carson was about to end, and Philpott led the packed street in singing to Maison Jackson and his mother, Sha'kia Jackson, as they danced together in a ring of lights. The sky was a deep purple, and the circus-colored bouncy house and slide were hulking silhouettes on the horizon.

"Daddy, get up here and sing to your son!" Philpott called to Jarramie Jackson, who lifted his 5-year-old-son and led the crowd in one final "happy birthday" of the evening.

Bathed in the red glow of taillights, Roc'co Tha Clown turned up the music. Members of his crew danced their way back to the trucks as the dance battles among the children played out. It was 8:30 and the League had two remaining gigs.

The next afternoon, they would start it all over again.

Ex-cop pleads guilty to fraud

Former San Diego detective ran massage parlors that offered sexual services.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — A former San Diego police detective who used his badge and his knowledge to run a string of massage sex parlors in California and Arizona pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal charges.

Peter Griffin and three other defendants entered pleas in San Diego federal court to racketeering-related conspiracy, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and other crimes, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement. The wire fraud charge carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison and a $1-million fine.

Prosecutors said that from 2013 to 2022, Griffin and the others owned and operated five massage spas that employed women to perform sexual services that were advertised online.

The businesses were in and around San Diego and in Tempe, Ariz., according to a grand jury indictment.

Griffin, 78, was with the San Diego Police Department from 1975 to 2002, including time with the vice unit, which investigates prostitution, authorities said.

"According to his plea agreement, throughout the course of the scheme, Griffin used the experience and skills he acquired through his work as a vice detective — and in at least one instance, his badge — to help the businesses evade law enforcement; thwart regulatory inspections, investigations and any official action against the businesses; conceal evidence and maintain a façade of legitimacy," the U.S. attorney's office statement said.

"No one is above the law. I'm appalled that someone who once took an oath to protect our community could prey on the vulnerable," San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit said in a statement. "This is an important step toward justice for the survivors of these crimes."

Drugs suspected in deaths

[**Skid row,** from B1]
take them over.

Conditions at some properties, including those dating from the early 20th century, have deteriorated, with broken doors, toilets and windows and no security or on-site management.

Opened in 2021, 649 Lofts is one of the trust's newest buildings, with 54 studio apartments. But it too has had serious problems. One tenant with arthritis and nerve damage told The Times last month that she was trapped for more than two weeks on the fifth floor after the elevator broke down, and that intruders were common.

In Los Angeles Superior Court on Tuesday, Steven Son, a deputy city attorney, described the situation as a "humanitarian emergency," adding that conditions have deteriorated in the buildings so much that there are "truly life safety issues."

He said 24-hour fire watches were required because the alarm systems were not functioning. "Anything could happen," Son said. A judge postponed a decision on the city's receivership request.

The Times reported on increasingly grim conditions at some Skid Row Housing Trust buildings in March.

649 Lofts resident Yolanda Cunningham Smith, a Navy veteran with severe mobility issues, described problems with security and intruders. "The other day I went to the trash chute," Smith said. "I opened the door. There was somebody inside the room. They were hitting the pipe."

The trust could not immediately be reached for comment.

Lottery results

For Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

1-37-45-62-64—**Mega 4**
Jackpot: $385 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	5	$7,018
4	80	$493
3 + Mega	207	$217
3	4,968	$10
2 + Mega	4,357	$10
1 + Mega	35,856	$4
Mega only	90,289	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Wednesday, April 5, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

20-26-35-39-46—**Mega 2**
Jackpot: $47 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

3-5-9-42-52—**Powerball 11**
Jackpot: $170 million

Fantasy Five: 7-8-16-27-39

Daily Four: 1-1-2-6

Daily Three (midday): 8-8-9

Daily Three (evening): 9-6-0

Daily Derby:
(1) Gold Rush
(5) California Classic
(11) Money Bags
Race time: 1:45.08

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Rains' delayed effect: More mosquitoes

[**Mosquitoes,** from B1]
for the eggs to hatch.

"We may see, as a result of all this rain, higher populations of those invasive species as well," Vetrone said.

But in some ways, he said, the rains may have helped control the mosquito population in the Southern California region in general, and in the Los Angeles Basin in particular.

The basin's underground storm drains, often stagnant, filled with debris and fed by irrigation, are "significant contributors" to the above-ground mosquito population, Vetrone said.

But the storms washed out the drains, leaving them cool and clear.

It will not be long, however, until vector control workers in Southern California find out how bad this year's mosquito season will be.

The Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District has already begun trapping mosquitoes, Vetrone said. So far, the numbers are low, but signs are pointing to an increase in the mosquito population.

"With each trapping, we're seeing, slowly, these numbers start to rise," he said.

"We've had the luxury of having a couple of 70-plus-degree days here recently," Vetrone said. "We put a few more of those together, we could start seeing a lot of mosquitoes starting to lay eggs."

Northern California, specifically Placer County between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe, is a little behind the Los Angeles region in terms of its mosquito season, but Buettner is keeping his eye on the standing water in his region.

"If we don't see any more rain for the rest of the spring and summer," he said, "things probably will get back to normal."

Agricultural "fields will dry up, rice fields will remain rice fields, and all the ditches and little puddles and everything that are everywhere right now are going to dry up," he said.

But the region could see an issue if snowmelt from the record-breaking snowpack overwhelms reservoirs and dams and spillways, causing water to pool in normally dry areas.

"That would be really bad," Buettner said. "In the summertime, lots of water means mosquitoes."

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

A MAN walks through standing water, where mosquitoes thrive, in Allensworth, Calif., after a storm.

Neither Buettner nor Vetrone expect a surge in cases of West Nile virus.

West Nile transmission, Vetrone said, has less to do with mosquitoes and more to do with birds. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention explains, mosquitoes become infected with West Nile by feeding on infected birds and then infect humans by biting them. A better barometer for predicting human transmission is the immune status of the bird population, Vetrone said.

"It's our experience that drought years tend to maybe have a little bit more West Nile activity," Buettner said, "because when there's limited water, the birds and the mosquitoes and the people all kind of congregate around those scarcer water sources, and you get more transmission."

With water sources plentiful, "perhaps West Nile will be a little bit lower," Buettner said.

In Los Angeles County last year, 64 people were infected with West Nile, with no deaths reported.

Still, Buettner and Vetrone urged people to be proactive as the sun starts shining.

"This is the time when folks should ... deal with their swimming pools, get them cleaned out," Buettner said.

Residents should take care of other sources of standing water too.

"Wearing mosquito repellent and possibly long pants will be uncomfortable," Vetrone said, "but if it means not being bitten, then we'll be better off for it."

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

GAME TIME

The sun peeks through storm clouds and brings the ballers out to Ryan Bonaminio Park in Riverside last week. Thursday's weather in L.A. will be perfect for outdoor hoops: mostly sunny with a high of 75.

Tech executive is fatally stabbed

Death of Bob Lee, founder of Cash App, renews concerns over San Francisco crime.

BY SUMMER LIN

ERIC RISBERG Associated Press

FLOWERS ARE left near an apartment building in the Rincon Hill area of San Francisco, where MobileCoin executive Bob Lee was stabbed to death Tuesday.

Tech executive Bob Lee, who founded the mobile payment service Cash App, was killed in a stabbing in San Francisco, according to authorities and media reports.

Police responded about 2:35 a.m. Tuesday to a report of a stabbing on Main Street in the Rincon Hill neighborhood, near the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the San Francisco Police Department said in a news release. Officers found a 43-year-old man suffering from stab wounds and administered aid.

After paramedics were called to the scene, the man was taken to a hospital, where he died, police said. The attack is under investigation, and no arrests have been made.

The Police Department declined to provide further information, citing the ongoing investigation, but multiple news outlets have reported that Lee, who was chief product officer at cryptocurrency startup MobileCoin, was the victim.

The killing reignited concerns from some high-profile figures over public safety in San Francisco, where a progressive district attorney who had become a lightning rod for controversies over crime and homelessness was recalled by voters last year. His replacement, Brooke Jenkins, said upon her appointment that San Francisco was "at a tipping point."

"I want to extend my sincerest condolences to Mr. Lee's family members & loved ones for his loss," Jenkins tweeted Wednesday. "We do not tolerate these horrific acts of violence in San Francisco."

Reactions from the tech world included Twitter Chief Executive Elon Musk, who expressed condolences to a friend of Lee's and asked Jenkins whether the city is "taking stronger action to incarcerate repeat violent offenders," though it was unclear whether the person who attacked Lee has a criminal history.

"Violent crime in SF is horrific and even if attackers are caught, they are often released immediately," Musk tweeted.

Later Wednesday, Jenkins updated her statement on Twitter, saying that "holding violent/repeat offenders accountable is a top priority for my administration."

"No one who commits a violent crime, or who's a repeat offender are receiving overly lenient plea deals," Jenkins said.

Lee's friend, mixed-martial artist Jake Shields, wrote on Twitter that Lee "was in the 'good' part of the city" when he was stabbed, on a block near luxury condominium complexes and many office buildings, including Salesforce Tower and Google's offices.

Though public concerns over crime have gripped San Francisco in recent years, adding fuel to last year's district attorney recall campaign and pushing top officials to adopt more law-and-order stances, overall violent crime fell 13.6% from 2019 to 2022, and from 6,152 to 5,315 incidents, according to police statistics.

Still, some individual categories of crime surged during that time: Homicides rose 36.6%, from 41 to 56, though the count in 2019 represented San Francisco's lowest number of killings in more than half a century.

The Police Department has investigated 12 homicides this year, compared with 10 during the same period last year, according to crime statistics.

San Francisco Supervisor Matt Dorsey, who represents the area where Lee was killed, encouraged residents to help with the investigation, especially those with surveillance video.

"My heart goes out to Mr. Lee's family members, friends and loved ones," Dorsey tweeted. "This is a senseless tragedy that I know is made worse by the fact that no suspect is yet in custody."

MobileCoin CEO Joshua Goldbard said, "There will never be anyone quite like" Lee.

"As a lifelong Bay Area resident I have more questions than answers tonight," he wrote early Wednesday on Twitter. "I don't know how to fix what's wrong, but I know something isn't working in our grey city."

MobileCoin issued a statement about Lee's death but didn't release any details.

"Our dear friend and colleague, Bob Lee passed away yesterday at the age of 43, survived by a loving family and collection of close friends and collaborators," the statement said.

"He was made for the world that is being born right now. Bob was a child of dreams, and whatever he imagined, no matter how crazy, he made real," MobileCoin said. "Bob was made for the new world."

Lee had worked at MobileCoin since 2021 and previously served as chief technology officer at the payments platform Square, which has since been renamed Block, in addition to founding Cash App.

His tea tasted funny, so he installed cameras

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

An Irvine dermatologist is facing multiple felony charges, including three counts of trying to poison her husband with a liquid drain cleaner, in an alleged plot uncovered after her husband secretly installed cameras around their home.

A grand jury indicted Yue "Emily" Yu, 45, on three felony counts of poisoning and one felony count of domestic battery with corporal injury, the Orange County district attorney said Wednesday.

Yu's husband, Jack Chen, first grew suspicious in April 2022 when he began to notice a "chemical taste" in his morning tea. According to court documents in which he sought a restraining order from his wife, Chen fixed the tea for himself in the mornings, and grew concerned as he started to suffer from stomach ulcers and a swollen esophagus.

Growing suspicious, Chen secretly installed cameras around his Irvine home, where, according to the restraining order request, he captured video of Yu pouring drain cleaner into his cup when he left it unattended.

According to prosecutors, video showed Yu pouring the chemical into the tea on July 11, 18 and 25.

Chen turned the video over to the Irvine Police Department, and samples of the tea were sent to the FBI for testing, confirming the presence of drain cleaner in the drink, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

Yu's then-attorney told The Times in August that Yu "vehemently and unequivocally" denied ever attempting to poison anyone.

Yu's current attorney in the criminal case did not immediately respond to a request for comment for this article.

Yu was arrested in August and released after posting a $30,000 bond. The grand jury indictment was unsealed Wednesday.

"Our homes should be where we feel the safest," Orange County Dist. Atty. Todd Spitzer said in a statement. "Yet, a licensed medical professional capitalized on her husband's daily rituals to torment her husband."

In his request for a restraining order, Chen described his 10-year marriage as growing abusive and at times violent, and alleged that Yu hit and otherwise abused their two children when they spent time with him.

Yu's arraignment is set for April 18.

Man charged in West Hills killing

BY SEEMA MEHTA

A Connecticut man was charged Tuesday in a weekend shooting that left one man dead and three others injured in a Trader Joe's parking lot in the San Fernando Valley, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Mark Connole, 34, faces one count of murder and three counts of attempted murder, as well as special allegations of using a handgun and inflicting great bodily injury.

"This brazen act of violence occurred in the middle of a Saturday afternoon. Innocent shoppers could easily have been hurt or killed," Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. George Gascón said in a statement. "This shocking level of disregard for the safety and well-being of our community will not be tolerated."

The violence unfolded around 3:45 p.m. Saturday in a West Hills shopping center that also included a Target, Home Depot and Walmart.

Prosecutors did not respond when asked what prompted the incident, in which an assailant shot the victims and fled the scene in a car. Officers in a Los Angeles Police Department helicopter saw him get into another car.

Connole and the driver of the second car, Amy Waters, were arrested after a short pursuit.

Two firearms were recovered.

Waters, 33, was charged with being an accessory after the fact, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell and driving recklessly while attempting to flee a police officer.

The pair had been scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday, but their appearances were continued to April 13.

City settles suit alleging rape by an officer

Brawley will pay a woman $l million over claim that she was assaulted at home.

BY SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

The city of Brawley, Calif., agreed to pay a $1-million settlement to a woman who accused a city police officer of rape after he arrested her on suspicion of driving under the influence, her attorneys announced Wednesday.

Former Brawley Police Officer Ricardo Gabriel Valdez drove the woman back to her home in a patrol car, where she woke up to the officer having sex with her, according to a lawsuit she filed. Valdez left the DUI citation on her bedside when he departed, according to the woman's complaint.

"This horrible incident has changed my life, and I am glad I can begin to put it behind me," the woman, identified only as Jane Doe, said in a statement provided by her attorneys. "I am discouraged and upset that a police officer took advantage of his badge."

In the lawsuit, filed on Jan. 21, 2021, attorneys for the woman called the officer's actions "brazen, malicious, sadistic, offensive to human dignity and cruel."

Michael Gibbs, one of the attorneys retained by the city in the suit, said the settlement was reached "to avoid the uncertainty and expense of a jury trial," but the city did not admit liability in the agreement.

The woman was contacted by Valdez on June 21, 2020, at her home after police received a call about a driver backing into the frontyard and tree of a home. According to Valdez's report of the incident, obtained by The Times, the officer knocked on her front door, and the woman was so intoxicated at the time she had trouble standing on her own or answering basic questions from police.

Brawley, a city with more than 26,000 residents, is about 30 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border in Imperial County.

According to the complaint, Valdez handcuffed her, put her in his patrol car and "took her into custody for several hours during which time Officer Valdez drove Plaintiff in and around the City of Brawley."

Valdez took the woman to a hospital to get her blood drawn for an alcohol level test, then drove her back to her home, where she was raped, according to the complaint.

Attorneys for the woman alleged Valdez was wearing his uniform and badge and carried his service weapon into the home, using his authority as a police officer during the incident.

In court documents, city officials disputed the allegation that Valdez used his role as a law enforcement officer, stating that according to the woman's account, she was unconscious during the alleged attack.

"Taking advantage of a victim's incapacity or unconsciousness is not the same as misusing coercive law enforcement authority to accomplish rape," according to a brief filed by attorneys for the city.

"Her level of intoxication was so high that, whatever happened .... she didn't respond to him," Gibbs said.

Valdez's sperm was found in the woman's home, according to the suit. According to court records, Valdez admitted to having sex with the woman but said it had been consensual.

Valdez was charged by the Imperial County district attorney on July 7, 2020, with multiple felony counts, including assault by a public officer, sexual battery, rape of an unconscious victim and burglary.

According to court records, the charges were dismissed on July 30, 2021. Court records don't explain why the charges were dismissed, but a local newspaper covering the hearing cited Deputy Dist. Atty. Danuta Tuszynska, who told a judge that prosecutors had found "exculpatory information" that "question gravely the credibility of the complaining witness."

Gibbs said the city acted immediately after the woman made her allegations, including placing Valdez on administrative leave.

Attorneys representing Valdez did not respond to requests for comment.

Rescue tries to aid dogs in Lancaster

Studio City group intervenes after caller reports close to 50 animals languishing.

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN

Melissa Bacelar, owner of Wagmor Pets Dog Rescue in Studio City, said she received a call Monday night from someone who spotted close to 50 dogs that were without food and water, languishing on a remote property in Lancaster.

"I don't know what to do," Bacelar said the caller told her. "I need a miracle."

It was an all too familiar story for Bacelar. She said she hears about abandoned dogs every week, and the issue is "happening everywhere."

Bacelar said she sprang into action to help the dogs and the overwhelmed man living on the property that had become a dog dumping ground. By Tuesday morning, she said, she had secured 400 pounds of dog food and transportation for 10 puppies that were weaned enough to be taken away from their mothers.

As of Wednesday, the puppies were in the care of Wagmor Pets Dog Rescue. The remaining 30 to 40 dogs are feral and not currently adoptable, but the rescue group is working to save them, Bacelar said. She said the plan is to "wrangle them, get them spayed and neutered, find trainers for them," and "slowly get them out of there."

The resident of the Lancaster property was in tears after seeing the dogs fed, Bacelar said, but much work remains to be done. Wagmor Pets Dog Rescue is raising donations via Instagram to provide the dogs with food, fencing, shelter and veterinary services.

Bacelar said she talked with the man about installing "some kind of fencing so we can keep the males and females separated" to prevent more puppies. A fence would also keep the dogs out of nearby roads.

Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control had been called already but "couldn't help," said Bacelar, adding that "there's only so much rescue groups and animal control can do."

Raul Rodriguez, a deputy director with Animal Care and Control, said the agency received a call Monday afternoon about the property. He said Animal Care and Control has visited the property three times, and it appeared that "rescue groups had gotten there before us and took some dogs."

"We're working with the person who claims to be the owner [of the property] to reduce [the number of dogs] or remove [the dogs] from the property," said Rodriguez, adding that the agency only saw about 10 dogs in a fenced-in area that "didn't look sick or injured."

If the dogs cannot be sheltered on the property, Rodriguez said, "ultimately we will take them in. That will be the last resort."

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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 21CHLC38193

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
RUZAN SARKISYAN

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site *(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)*, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE**: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! *Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.*
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hiener sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
OF LOS ANGELES
9425 Penfield Avenue
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
CLAUDIA GAVRILESCU, ESQ. (CA bar No.: 333030)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566233)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 10/26/2021
SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK OF COURT, Clerk (Secretario), by L. RAMIREZ, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13/23

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SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 22AHCV00785

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
NGON C VUONG

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can located these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site *(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)*, the California Courts Online Self-Help Center *(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)*, or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE**: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
OF LOS ANGELES
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The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
HARLAN M. REESE, ESQ. (CA bar No.: 118226)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 568265)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 10/10/2022
SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK OF COURT, Clerk (Secretario), by M. AVINA, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
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Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 23STLC00979

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Maryam Taghavilgolchini

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Sherman Way Twnhm Assn.

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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
California Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles
111 N Hill Street
Los Angeles , CAlifornia 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Joseph C. Watson, Esq.
930 Westbourne Drive, Ste. 410
West Hollywood, California 90069
323-333-6286

Date: (Fecha) February 8, 2023

David Slayton Clerk (Secretario)
F. Ochoa Deputy (Adjunto)

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*: 22CHLC04316

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
DANASTY BRALOV

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
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Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY
OF LOS ANGELES
9425 Penfield Avenue
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
CLAUDIA GAVRILESCU, ESQ. (CA bar No.: 333030)
REESE LAW GROUP
3168 Lionhead Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92010
760/842-5850 (File No. 566904)

DATE *(Fecha)*: 02/25/2022
SHERRI R. CARTER EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK OF COURT, Clerk (Secretario), by J. KHATRI, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13/23

CNS-3682849#
Published in the Los Angeles Times

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 21STCV27498

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
91 Enterprise, LLC, a California corporation; Asher Elimeleh, an individual; Gilad Erlich, an individual; Alon Ben David, an individual; and DOES 1 to 20, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Lavi Ben Hamo, an individual;

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
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There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web Site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Stanley Mosk Courthouse
111 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Charmaine L. Huntting, Law Office of Parag L. Amin, P.C.,
5901 W. Century Blvd. #1518
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(213) 293-7881

Date: (Fecha) March 20, 2023

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
S. Bolden Deputy (Adjunto)

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 30-2021-01204211-CU-FR-CJC

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
LE INVESTMENT CONSULTING, LLC.; HOANG THOAI LE; Does 1 to 20

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
JEANS JEWELRY & COMPANY LLC

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The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Solution Law, APC
16580 Harbor Blvd., Suite K
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
714-839-9838

Date: (Fecha) 06/04/2021

David H. Yamasaki Clerk (Secretario)
Hailey McMaster Deputy (Adjunto)

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love is...

...a birthday cake made by him!

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZOREF

GTIEH

CIPCIN

FIRTDA

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

If I can win a thousand dollars for my buck, I'd be happier.
I'd be happy to break even.
4/6
WITH $1,000 BEING THE MOST THAT COULD BE WON ON THE SCRATCH-OFF GAME, IT WAS THE ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SHAME BASIC HEALTH CRAFTY
Answer: After their nasty divorce, she called her ex-husband her — "BITTER" HALF

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Two suits target high prices in county jails

[**Jails,** from B1]
system in which the people most vulnerable and least able to pay are paying — which in reality means it's their loved ones paying," said Barry Litt, one of the lawyers handling the suits. "If society is going to put people in jail, then society should bear the cost of allowing them to live halfway decently while they're there."

The legal team handling the San Diego and Los Angeles cases is filing similar claims against Kern, Sacramento, Alameda, Fresno, Orange, San Joaquin and San Bernardino counties, Litt said.

The lawsuit comes two years after the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to end markups on commissary goods and make phone calls free to the roughly 14,000 people in local jails.

So far, that has not materialized.

But in an interview with The Times last month, Sheriff Robert Luna said the county is trying to fix that and lower prices for inmates and their families.

"I don't want them charged up for a cup of noodles or hot Cheetos, or whatever it may be," he said. "I don't think it's fair."

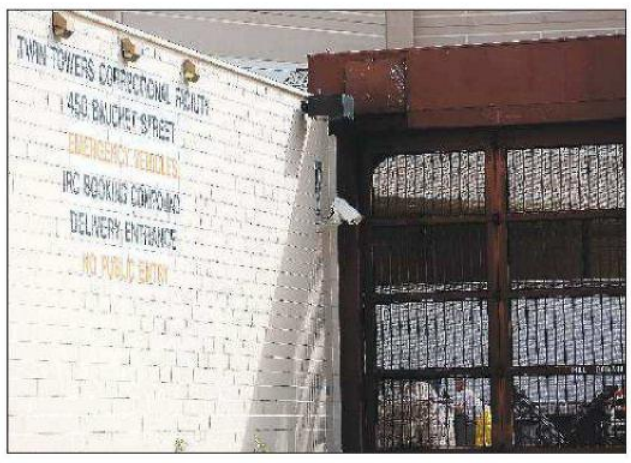
Lawyers for Los Angeles County declined to comment on pending litigation, while officials in San Diego did not respond to a request for comment on the case there.

The high cost of commissary merchandise and calls behind bars has come under fire over the last decade across the country.

"Everyone's making a lot of money at the expense of inmates' families," Zev Yaroslavsky, then a Los Angeles County supervisor, said in 2014 when the county took up the issue. "They're in jail. They're paying their debt to society. That doesn't give us the right to fleece them."

The average jail charges about $3 for a 15-minute phone call — a figure that still can be prohibitive for low-income families struggling to stay in touch, according to the Prison Policy Initiative. Decades of research by various academics shows that helping people maintain family ties during incarceration can reduce recidivism.

Commissary markups can be even costlier, sometimes reaching double the price of similar items in outside stores. Yet many jails and prisons don't provide certain necessities — such as tampons, deodorant or writing supplies — except through the jail canteen, and the meager and sometimes moldy meals inmates can be served behind bars often aren't enough without some commissary-bought Cheetos or ramen to supplement.



DANIA MAXWELL Los Angeles Times

JAILS on average charge $3 for a 15-minute phone call, too much for some low-income families.

But commissary orders and phone calls are typically outsourced to third-party contractors — and it's those contracts that are the crux of the issue in the current Los Angeles case.

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Gregory Johnson and Jacqueline Murillo Castro, challenges Los Angeles County's use of "commission-based contracts" in which the county is guaranteed a hefty chunk of revenue from the companies that handle commissary sales and phone calls.

Johnson spent part of 2020 and 2021 in Men's Central Jail, and Castro has supported friends in jail by paying for phone calls and putting money in their commissary accounts.

"The millions of dollars in commissions that the companies agree to pay the County annually in exchange for these exclusive contracts are completely passed through to inmates, their families, friends, and attorneys, in the form of extortionate and outrageous prices, which are then used by the County to fund its jails," the lawsuit says. "These 'commissions,' though denominated as such, are actually unlawful taxes."

Some jurisdictions have already taken steps to eliminate those "unlawful taxes." In 2021, Connecticut became the first state to make all prison phone calls free. A little over a year later, California followed suit — but that change did not include county jails.

Still, some counties have tackled the issue on their own. San Francisco led the way in 2019 when county leaders voted to end commissary markups and make all jail phone calls free. Two years later San Diego made jail phone calls free but left commissary profits intact.

In counties that haven't made those changes, calls and commissary purchases still bring in millions of dollars every year. County audits show that Los Angeles jails typically bring in more than $35 million annually from phones and commissary sales.

As in other counties, that money goes back to the Sheriff's Department. Under state law, it has to be deposited in an Inmate Welfare Fund, which is supposed to be used mainly for the benefit and education of inmates. But the lawsuit alleges that's not necessarily what's happening.

"Rather than using the money primarily for vocational and educational programs, or other programs designed for the rehabilitation of inmates, much, if not most, of the money deposited in the Inmate Welfare Fund is spent on general jails issues, including maintenance, equipment, office furniture, salaries and, in some instances, food," the lawsuit says.

That means that some of the county's most vulnerable people — many of whom suffer from serious mental illness and a disproportionate number of whom are people of color — are stuck shouldering jail maintenance and equipment costs that the suit claims "are rightfully the responsibility of the taxpayers and society at large."

The current lawsuit echoes a series of cases Litt filed several years ago. Back then, Litt said, an appeals court decided that only the contractors — not the inmates or their families — could sue because technically it was the contractors that bore the cost of the county's pricey commissions.

But last year, a California Supreme Court decision in a case regarding municipal government and contractors changed the legal landscape. Afterward, Litt said, he realized he could pursue another round of lawsuits without the same legal barriers.

When filing the cases this time around, Litt said, his legal team decided on which counties to target based largely on two factors: "One, was the amount [of money] involved big enough to be worth litigating and, two, did we have a plaintiff?"

After Litt and his legal team finish filing the cases in the coming days, they will ask the courts to coordinate the cases in a single larger case — which could be expanded in the future.

Reform advocates and formerly incarcerated Angelenos welcomed the lawsuit and the possibility of change. Kent G. Mendoza-Morales — who is not part of the case filed this week but spent time in the county's lockups almost a decade ago — remembers how tough it was for his family to help pay for his food and calls while he was in jail.

"My mom used to go sell stuff in alleys to make money," he said. "She did that to put money on my books, just so I could buy the minimum in canteen."

Now, Mendoza-Morales has been free for nine years and works as the manager of advocacy and community organizing at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, where he sees the way the costs of calls and commissary goods still affect inmates and their families. "When you talk about making our communities better, you don't do it by charging families who are already on the fringes so much for commissary and calls," he said.

"As one of the richest counties in the world, how is it that we're expecting people to pay so much for something that is cheaper on the street?"

Big upsides of rainstorms

[**Skelton,** from B1]
and the land has dramatically sunk, cracking pipes and canals.

We have undreamed-of water riches this spring after a three-year drought. It's now up to governments and utilities to take advantage of it.

As of Tuesday, the statewide snowpack was an astounding 241% of normal for the date. For the northern Sierra, it was double normal. For the southern Sierra, it was triple.

Reservoirs were rapidly filling. Shasta was at 84% of capacity, Oroville 83% and San Luis 99% after being perilously low in the fall. There'll be a tight squeeze to make room for the warm-weather runoffs when the snow melts.

For most big dams, hydroelectric generation will be an unexpected bonus. But hydro is not a top priority for federal and state water projects. Reservoirs are built at great cost — mainly to water users — for snowmelt storage and flood control.

There's usually an opportune confluence, however, of the needs for crop irrigation and hydro generation in summer when farms thirst for water and the electrical grid is strained by air conditioners running full blast.

Hefty water releases from dams can serve both purposes, especially when the sun sets and solar electricity fades.

Hydro at large government dams could generate as much as 20% of California's electricity this year. Plus, utility companies such as Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric operate smaller dams specifically for generating hydro.

In 2020, large hydro produced 14% of California's electricity, according to the California Energy Commission. Nuclear power accounted for 11%. All clean energy, including solar and wind, generated 59%. The rest came from greenhouse gas emitting fossil fuels, mainly natural gas.

Hydro's share of California's electricity has been as low as 6%, in 2015.

"We'll have a better carbon footprint this year. It'll help meet our climate goals. We'll be able to burn less polluting natural gas," says Lindsay Buckley, spokesperson for the energy commission.

"And there also will be better reliability of electrical power. It's a big deal."

Presumably there will be fewer power outages during high demand for electricity. That will be the utilities' responsibility.

Concerning groundwater, politicians and water officials have been yakking about recharging the drained aquifers for decades. And we haven't seen much progress.

OK, we've had a drought. But that's over. It's time to see what's really possible.

The truth is California was the last Western state to regulate groundwater. It finally did in 2014. But then-Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature delayed full implementation until the 2040s.

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently tried to expedite recharging by cutting red tape for farmers and local agencies desiring to divert runoff onto flooded fields and let it sink into the ground.

But some soil is good for that — such as in the San Joaquin Valley's Chowchilla Basin — and some is bad, says Andrew Ayres, an energy and water expert at the Public Policy Institute of California.

Among the worst is the sprawling Tulare Lake. It disappeared long ago when dams and levies were built. The lake dried up and became rich farmland. Now Tulare Lake has reemerged and flooded crops.

Don't expect it to be a boon for the aquifer, Ayres says.

"Tulare Basin has a lot of clay," he explains. "That water is going to sit around for a long time and evaporate. The soil is not conducive for recharging the aquifer."

Flooded rice fields aren't good for recharging either, he says.

But thankfully they are great for migrating waterfowl.

One reader emailed and said that to speed up recharging, the state should just pump the runoff down the hundreds of abandoned San Joaquin Valley water wells.

But that's impractical, says Paul Gosselin, who's in charge of groundwater management for the state Department of Water Resources.

First, abandoned wells are sealed, he says. Second, lots of valley water is contaminated by fertilizer and it would require a massive cleanup. All that's expensive.

There's a filtering process for water that naturally seeps into the ground, Gosselin says.

The state has pitched in around $100 million the last two years for recharge projects, he reports.

There's talk in the Legislature of placing a water bond proposal — maybe $4 billion to $5 billion — on the 2024 ballot.

Don't bother unless it includes serious money for restocking groundwater basins, by far our largest natural reservoirs.

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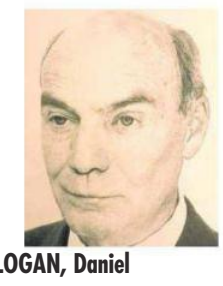


LOGAN, Daniel

August 5, 1940 - February 22, 2023

Dan was born to parents Gene and Myrtle Logan in Lansing, Michigan. He was a 1959 graduate of Sexton High School. Upon graduation and a year at Michigan State, he took 2 years off to "bum around and travel". Dan then enlisted in the U.S. Army for 2 years as a First Class Tank Gunner and was honorably discharged. While pursuing his bachelor's and master's degrees at Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo, he interned, then became co-partner, and eventually was owner of Medical Planning Associates (MPA) headquartered at Rockledge on Rambla Pacifico in Malibu, CA. He supervised offices located at the Malibu home base, Washington D.C. and Tehran, Iran specializing in large scale health care projects and growing a staff from 10 to 50 people. One of the highlights of MPA was the selection of the company as the design development and space programming for the two naval hospital ships MERCY and COMFORT, the world's first "floating hospitals" which still deliver urgent healthcare for the USA and developing nations around the globe. Rockledge was unfortunately destroyed by wildfire in 1993. MPA relocated first to Dan's beach house, then to Tidepool a former art studio and shell shop. Two years after Rockledge burned, Dan closed the business and relocated to Palm Springs, CA, and a lakeside cabin getaway at Big Bear Lake in California's San Bernardino mountains. His company, as early as the 70s, pioneered every other Friday off, and provided a chef-prepared lunch every day for everyone in the office. After lunch, activities included volleyball and swimming in the courtyard pool. Given his love of architecture; his impeccable, graceful style; and the gift of considerable patience, Dan was "uncommonly well qualified" (one of his favorite terms) to renovate and rejuvenate homes, which he did lovingly and frequently. He was particularly adept at creating comfort and style in small spaces. Additionally, Dan was an unabashed lover of his pet cats and dogs, had an ardent appreciation of luxury and vintage cars (Bentleys) of which he owned many over the years. He will be remembered for his unique way of "walking with contained energy", his playfulness, his avid support for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), his appreciation of fine art, his infamous shopping expeditions and his intuitive kindness towards all. Over his lifetime, he managed to have 5 husbands and as he put it, "I was competing with ZsaZsa and Liz"! He is survived by siblings Nancy Logan Sellers of Bellair Beach, Florida, David of upstate New York, nephews Steve, Mike, Bart and Greg Sellers, Steven Logan, and niece Sara Logan. Dan will be missed by his former mentor and business partner, Jim Moore of Pierce City, Missouri, along with innumerable friends and business associates. Also mourning his passing is former personal partner Steven M. Sole. Donations in Dan's memory should be made to the HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN, 1640 Rhode Island NW Ave. Washington D.C. ATTN: Donations. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held at a future date.

AGOGLIA, Anthony T

Anthony Agoglia, Honorary Commodore of the California Yacht Club and loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend to so many passed away in March 2023 at the age of 59.

An accomplished sailor, Anthony sailed the entire west coast from Anacortes, Washington to Cabo, San Lucas, Mexico.

He was an invaluable asset to the California Yacht Club, committing generously his energy and time to the bridge leadership, as well as being the first to offer support, guidance, and encouragement to anyone in need.

In his professional life, Anthony worked with various companies, including the Hard Rock Group, Warner Brothers, House of Blues, and a AHCP. He achieved a BSBA from the university of San Francisco and was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Anthony was a larger than life personality, and was always ready to tell a good story. His "FANTASTIC" sense of humor and booming laugh will be remembered by all who were blessed to know him.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Joanne and his father John; leaving behind his beloved son Steven, daughter Jamie, brother John, niece Tess, and the love of his life, his wife, Sandy.

Anthony had so much more life to live, and while he left us way too soon, he will be forever young, forever tan and forever in our hearts.

Celebration of life TBA

LEMER, Judith Rich

MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL PARKS
HOLLYWOOD HILLS 800-600-0076
WWW.mountsinaiparks.org

SHAKELY, Carole Ferguson

January 6, 1942 - March 30, 2023

Carole passed away peacefully on March 30, 2023. She is survived by her husband Jim, her son Benton, his wife Katie, and her grandchildren Connor and Mason. She was an unforgettable wife, parent, teacher and friend. Her exuberant spirit, as it always has, roams the wild world and beyond. Donations in her memory can be made to Homeboy Industries.

MAGASINN, Rhonda Wolf

September 27, 1966 - March 31, 2023

Rhonda (Wolf) Magasinn died suddenly on March 31, 2023. Rhonda was born in Encino, California on September 27, 1966, to Edward and Sylvia Wolf. She was raised in Northridge, California. She received a BA in Psychology at CSUN followed by an MA in Psychology from Pepperdine University before dedicating herself to the welfare of abused children as an employee of the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services, spending almost all of her time taking calls on the Child Abuse Hotline. Rhonda married Michael L. Magasinn on March 4, 2000, and together they were privileged to raise two wonderful sons, AJ and Matt. Rhonda was a loving mother, a beloved wife and a cherished friend. Funeral service will be officiated by Rabbi Ron Li-Paz of Valley Outreach Synagogue at Hillside Memorial Park, Los Angeles, at 10:00 AM on Friday, April 7. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rhonda's memory can be made to the Valley Outreach Synagogue Charitable Fund, for the benefit of Valley Outreach Synagogue, currently located at 26668 Agoura Road, Calabasas, CA 91302.

RUDOLPH, Patricia "Teasha"

Mount Sinai Memorial Parks - Hollywood Hills 800-600-0076
www.mountsinaiparks.org

SHNABLE, Paul Spencer

A man who was loved by so many for his kindness and thoughtfulness passed away peacefully on March 18th following his battle with cancer. During his life he accumulated and stayed in touch with many friends from his high school days as a varsity quarterback, president of the student body and chief justice and as a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona. A veteran of Army intelligence serving in Vietnam he has remained in close contact with his fellow vets. Paul made a point of knowing his neighbors and loved to be of service to help out at a moments notice. When Paul retired from his life insurance business he spent time traveling, enjoying his cabin in Idyllwild and adoring his dogs, particularly his beloved Maggie Mae. Paul was forever grateful for his life and his friends. He is missed by so many but leaves behind beautiful memories. Paul is survived by his wife and soul mate Chris and his sister Lora.

Cora Lawrence

March 4, 1933 - March 10, 2023

Cora Parkhurst Lawrence of Southington, CT died on March 10, 2023. She had been the loving wife of the late Robert H. Lawrence for 56 years. Mrs. Lawrence was born in Hartford, CT on March 4, 1933 and was educated in the West Hartford public schools. She attended the Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT; Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA; and Russel Sage Collage in Troy, NY where she earned a BS degree in dietetics. She also took numerous courses at Long Beach City College, Orange Coast College, Coastline Community College, Fullerton Jr. College, Cypress College, and California State University at Long Beach, all located in California and Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, CT.

She leaves four children: Jacqueline Lawrence Wilson, James Lawrence and his wife Debra, Peter Lawrence and his wife Rita, Kenneth Lawrence and his wife Carrie, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband, Robert, and daughter, Susan Lawrence.

Cora worked as a dietitian at Hartford Hospital, CT; and taught piano for 28 years in Connecticut and California. Her piano lesson business consisted of students ranging from the very young to senior citizens. She provided advanced students the opportunity of student teaching under her guidance. In addition, workshops and recitals, including regular recitals at convalescent and long-term care hospitals, were performed. Student attendance at musicals and concerts were also provided.

She volunteered playing the flute and set up music therapy programs at Long Beach Memorial Hospital, California; Albermarle Hospital, Carolina Living Retirement Home, Winslow Memorial Long Term Care Hospital, The Living Cancer Center, and the Dialysis Center all in Elizabeth City, NC; Chowan Hospital in Edenton, NC; and Chesapeake General, and Lake Taylor Hospital in Norfolk and Chesapeake, VA. These programs were designed to work with severely ill and special needs children under the music program within the Norfolk (VA) school system.

She was active in various churches throughout her life and worked extensively with children of all ages before she married. For several years, she worked as a volunteer with special education groups throughout California churches and schools. She also volunteered at the Literacy Volunteers of Orange County, California.

She owned and operated a retail shop, Spiders Web, for 21 years in Maine, located in the towns of Boothbay Harbor (8 yrs) and Edgecomb (13 yrs).

Cora will be laid to rest next to her husband in Connecticut. Funeral arrangements are private.

In Memoriam

Jimmy Borden

April 6, 1955 - April 27, 2005

Happy Birthday!

We know that you are dancing with the angels now, but words can never express how much you are missed and loved.....your warm smile, your welcoming arms, your willingness to listen to every problem. There will never be another you. The Blues World will never be the same with out your amazing talent. Rock on keyboard Man! Until we Meet Again, Your Loving Family and Friends

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary
or call
1-800-234-4444
Los Angeles Times

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Warmup continues: The recent warming will continue with sunshine, a light offshore flow and building high pressure. A front moving inland well to the north will turn the flow onshore tonight through Saturday, allowing for some cooling and areas of late-night and morning low clouds, especially along the coast. The weekend will end with dry weather and rising temperatures.

5-day forecasts

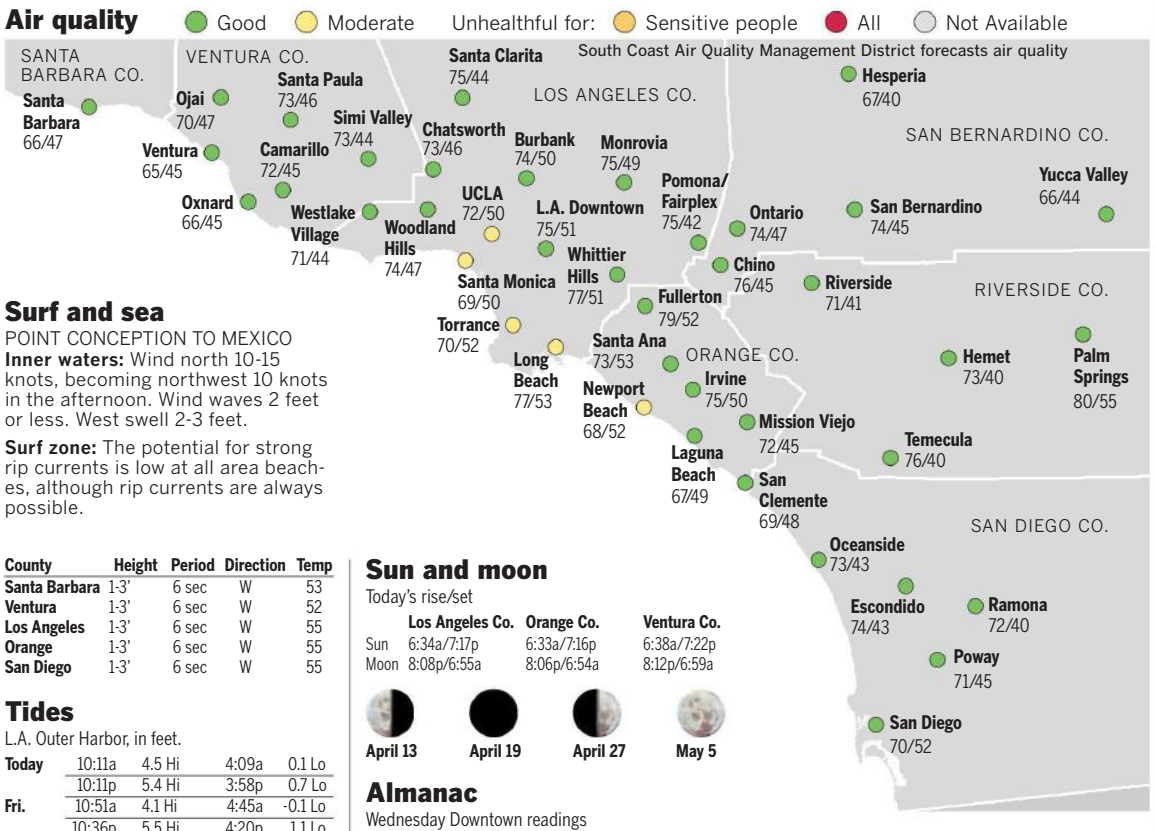
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	75|51		74|49		69|50		48|22		80|55	
	Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny; chilly		Mostly sunny	
Friday	Mostly sunny	69/51	Mostly sunny	69/51	Partly sunny	64/50	Sunny; cool	55/33	Sunny	85/58
Saturday	Clouds, sun	71/52	Partly sunny	71/53	Some sun	63/52	Partly sunny	55/36	Partly sunny	86/61
Sunday	Clouds, sun	73/55	Some sun	77/54	Clouds, sun	65/52	Partly sunny	59/35	Very warm	90/65
Monday	Partly sunny	71/56	Partly sunny	75/53	Partly sunny	64/53	Rather cloudy	61/35	Very warm	93/64

Air quality

Good ● Moderate ● Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind north 10-15 knots, becoming northwest 10 knots in the afternoon. Wind waves 2 feet or less. West swell 2-3 feet.

Surf zone: The potential for strong rip currents is low at all area beaches, although rip currents are always possible.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	6 sec	W	53
Ventura	1-3'	6 sec	W	52
Los Angeles	1-3'	6 sec	W	55
Orange	1-3'	6 sec	W	55
San Diego	1-3'	6 sec	W	55

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	10:11a	4.5 Hi	4:09a	0.1 Lo
	10:11p	5.4 Hi	3:58p	0.7 Lo
Fri.	10:51a	4.1 Hi	4:45a	-0.1 Lo
	10:36p	5.5 Hi	4:20p	1.1 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 25 — Phoenix, 25
Los Angeles, 25 — San Francisco, 30

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:34a/7:17p	6:33a/7:16p	6:38a/7:22p
Moon	8:08p/6:55a	8:06p/6:54a	8:12p/6:59a

April 13 — April 19 — April 27 — May 5

Almanac

Wednesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	70/48	74/47	65/46
Normal high/low	72/54	73/53	67/47
High/low a year ago	78/54	75/53	79/54
Record high/date	105/1989	87/2016	90/1996
Record low/date	41/1921	43/1999	38/1955

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	27.42	20.53	25.42
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	11.83	6.30	11.04
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	13.20	10.85	14.90
Humidity (high/low)	65/21	65/20	88/33

California cities

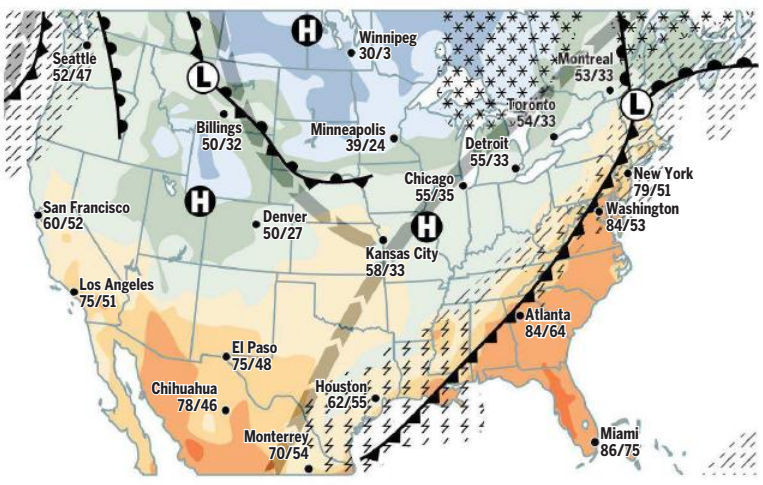
City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	75	46	--	77	49	70	50
Avalon/Catalina	59	45	--	65	50	58	50
Bakersfield	64	39	--	71	49	72	52
Barstow	62	37	--	69	45	78	52
Big Bear Lake	45	18	--	48	22	55	33
Bishop	56	21	--	63	36	66	37
Burbank	67	43	--	74	50	70	51
Camarillo	68	38	--	72	45	67	47
Chatsworth	70	42	--	73	46	69	50
Chino	71	36	--	76	45	74	48
Compton	69	42	--	76	52	70	51
Dana Point	60	40	--	67	49	63	52
Death Valley	75	48	--	77	67	83	70
Del Mar	64	43	--	63	50	61	51
Escondido	69	41	--	74	43	73	46
Eureka	52	37	Tr	56	47	55	41
Fallbrook	68	42	--	75	43	70	43
Fresno	63	39	--	70	50	72	51
Fullerton	74	47	--	79	52	73	53
Hemet	67	34	--	73	40	73	44
Hesperia	57	30	--	67	40	72	45
Huntington Beach	64	43	--	69	52	65	54
Idyllwild	54	36	--	57	41	61	45
Irvine	68	42	--	75	50	69	52
L.A. D'ntown/USC	70	48	--	75	51	69	51
L.A. Int'l. Airport	65	47	--	70	51	65	51
Laguna Beach	65	41	--	67	49	63	53
Lancaster	61	32	--	68	37	73	49
Long Beach	72	49	--	77	53	70	51
Mammoth Lakes	32	3	--	46	26	50	32
Mission Viejo	68	40	--	72	45	69	49
Monrovia	68	39	--	75	49	71	46
Monterey	54	42	--	59	48	63	54
Mt. Wilson	52	29	--	46	38	47	43
Needles	67	40	--	76	52	82	57
Newport Beach	60	47	--	68	52	63	54
Northridge	70	43	--	75	48	70	50
Oakland	58	39	--	60	52	62	51
Oceanside	64	38	--	73	43	69	50
Ojai	68	34	--	70	47	70	44
Ontario	69	40	--	74	47	72	48
Palm Springs	72	48	--	80	57	85	58
Pasadena	72	44	--	74	49	71	48
Paso Robles	63	32	--	69	42	66	48
Redding	62	34	--	62	51	57	49
Riverside	66	33	--	71	41	72	42
Sacramento	63	37	--	65	50	60	49
San Bernardino	68	39	--	74	45	73	49
San Diego	64	46	--	70	52	67	54
San Francisco	59	45	--	60	52	59	54
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	76	48	74	51
San Jose	62	40	--	64	52	62	51
San Luis Obispo	65	42	--	68	44	63	48
Santa Ana	66	48	--	73	53	68	54
Santa Barbara	64	42	--	66	47	65	50
Santa Clarita	66	39	--	75	44	72	44
Santa Monica Pier	62	45	--	69	50	64	50
Santa Paula	68	39	--	73	46	69	45
Santa Rosa	63	34	--	59	49	57	45
Simi Valley	69	45	--	73	44	71	45
Tahoe Valley	40	8	--	49	34	43	32
Temecula	70	37	--	76	40	74	42
Thousand Oaks	67	44	--	72	43	69	46
Torrance	68	39	--	70	52	63	51
UCLA	xx	xx	--	72	50	65	51
Van Nuys	71	45	--	77	50	72	51
Ventura	65	46	--	65	45	61	49
Whittier Hills	75	45	--	77	51	73	52
Woodland Hills	72	36	--	74	47	69	50
Wrightwood	44	25	--	53	37	56	40
Yorba Linda	72	43	--	75	47	72	46
Yosemite Valley	54	29	--	57	40	56	37

Today in North America

Front brings storms: Showers and thunderstorms will accompany a front stretching from New England to the western Gulf Coast. A few of the storms will bring damaging wind gusts and hail in the mid-Atlantic. The risk for flooding will increase in eastern Texas.

Pressure: L Low H High — Warm Front — Cold Front — Jet Stream — Trough

Temps –0 | 0s | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100+ — Rain — T-storm — Snow — Ice



U.S. cities

WEDNESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 94 in Fort Myers, Fla. **Low** –19 in Yellowstone N.P., Wyo.

City	Wednesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	56	44	.03	65	41	Sh
Albuquerque	51	21	--	64	39	Pc
Anchorage	37	30	.05	35	13	Pc
Aspen	26	13	.03	41	18	Su
Atlanta	87	65	--	84	64	Ts
Austin	75	59	.15	52	49	Ts
Baltimore	84	56	--	86	53	Ts
Boise	50	25	--	56	38	Pc
Boston	44	43	--	69	49	Sh
Buffalo	77	43	.91	51	37	W
Burlington, Vt.	49	35	.64	63	37	R
Charleston, S.C.	86	63	--	83	64	Cy
Charlotte	86	60	--	84	60	Ts
Chicago	71	60	.43	55	35	Su
Cincinnati	77	69	1.39	53	39	Sh
Cleveland	79	53	.60	53	36	Pc
Columbia, S.C.	89	60	--	86	67	Ts
Columbus	78	65	1.03	53	37	Sh
Dallas/Ft.Worth	68	52	Tr	62	48	Cy
Denver	43	11	Tr	50	27	Pc
Detroit	77	48	.37	55	33	Pc
El Paso	62	38	--	75	48	Su
Eugene	54	39	.05	58	46	R
Fort Myers	94	71	--	92	70	Pc
Hartford	53	51	.01	76	45	Ts
Honolulu	85	75	Tr	84	72	Sh
Houston	81	75	.89	62	55	Ts
Indianapolis	75	66	.74	55	37	Pc
Jacksonville, Fla.	89	62	--	86	65	Pc
Kansas City	52	33	.12	58	33	Su
Knoxville	89	64	--	78	52	Ts
Las Vegas	58	41	--	66	48	Su
Louisville	85	76	.37	54	44	R
Medford	55	37	.01	60	47	R
Memphis	80	73	.56	53	48	R
Miami	87	77	Tr	86	75	Pc
Milwaukee	70	40	.39	53	34	Su
Minneapolis	32	30	.03	39	24	Cy
Nashville	86	70	.50	54	47	R
New Orleans	84	76	--	85	72	Ts
New York	53	50	--	79	51	Ts
Norfolk	85	59	--	85	54	Ts
Oklahoma City	71	36	--	61	39	Pc
Omaha	46	27	--	59	36	Su
Orlando	91	70	--	90	68	Pc
Philadelphia	72	56	--	82	52	Ts
Phoenix	69	46	--	80	54	Su
Pittsburgh	85	58	.09	56	36	Sh
Portland, Ore.	54	40	.04	53	48	R
Providence	48	46	.01	71	48	Sh
Raleigh/Durham	87	63	--	85	54	Cy
Reno	52	28	Tr	60	44	Pc
Richmond	87	60	--	86	53	Ts
St. Louis	75	63	.70	56	38	Su
Salt Lake City	41	29	.23	46	29	Su
Seattle	53	36	--	52	47	R
Tampa	91	74	--	90	73	Pc
Tucson	69	33	--	80	50	Su
Tulsa	76	39	.06	63	39	Su
Washington, D.C.	87	59	--	84	53	Ts
Wichita	55	29	.17	61	33	Su

World

Acapulco	87	72	--	87	69	Su
Amsterdam	52	34	--	48	44	R
Athens	66	54	--	64	47	Ts
Bangkok	100	82	--	100	83	Su
Barcelona	61	46	--	64	49	Pc
Berlin	45	28	--	50	29	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	81	58	--	81	60	Su
Cairo	78	61	--	81	64	Su
Dubai	81	66	--	84	69	Pc
Dublin	57	48	.30	54	34	Cy
Havana	90	70	--	91	70	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	95	75	--	96	80	Pc
Hong Kong	82	74	.07	83	68	Cy
Istanbul	49	45	.05	56	46	Pc
Jerusalem	66	50	--	66	47	Su
Johannesburg	70	47	--	74	56	Su
Kuala Lumpur	90	76	.11	90	76	Ts
Lima	85	74	--	83	73	Su
London	55	39	.08	55	39	Cy
Madrid	72	34	--	75	39	Pc
Mecca	98	70	--	96	74	Ts
Mexico City	88	56	--	84	56	Su
Montreal	36	27	.63	53	33	Cy
Moscow	48	36	--	52	31	Su
Mumbai	88	79	--	92	81	Hz
New Delhi	90	68	--	91	67	Hz
Paris	61	34	--	57	42	Cy
Prague	43	25	--	46	27	Pc
Rome	55	37	.03	60	38	Su
Seoul	64	55	.45	52	40	Cy
Singapore	84	79	.13	89	77	Ts
Taipei City	80	70	.16	82	64	R
Tokyo	68	52	.09	69	63	Sh
Vancouver	50	34	Tr	51	47	R
Vienna	45	28	--	49	35	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Wednesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023
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THE DAY IN SPORTS

Basketball star Osborne will return for UCLA

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

UCLA senior guard **Charisma Osborne**, who was a projected first-round WNBA draft pick, surprised fans and analysts by announcing her decision to return to UCLA for a fifth year Wednesday.

Though the guard might have compromised her draft pick potential, Osborne said she can more than make up for it with the opportunities remaining in college.

"UCLA is obviously such an amazing school," Osborne said. "The opportunities are just endless here, and you just don't get these college years back."

—Thuc Nhi Nguyen

Chase Stevens Associated Press

CHARISMA OSBORNE was a projected first-round WNBA draft pick but will play a fifth year at UCLA.

ETC.

Reese says 'we'll go to Obamas'

First Lady **Jill Biden's** walk-back of her suggestion that runner-up Iowa should join NCAA women's basketball champion Louisiana State for a visit to the White House didn't sit well with Tigers star **Angel Reese**.

Prompted by a discussion of Biden's comments during an appearance on a podcast, Reese said the Tigers should celebrate their title with **President Obama** and former First Lady **Michelle Obama** rather than **President Biden** and Jill Biden.

"You felt like they should've came because of sportsmanship, right?" Reese said on the podcast. "They can have that spotlight. We'll go to the Obamas. We'll see Michelle. We'll see Barack."

Bill Self said he's doing well after a health scare kept him from coaching Kansas in the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments last month, and he reiterated that he had no plans to step away from the Jayhawks any time soon. Self spoke to reporters for the first time since March 8, when he went to an emergency room. He complained of chest tightness and concerns about his balance, and the 60-year-old had two stents placed to help treat blocked arteries at the University of Kansas Health System. ... Connecticut's victory over San Diego State in the men's national championship basketball game ended up being the lowest-viewed final. The Huskies' 76-59 win averaged 14.69 million viewers on CBS. The previous low was 15.99 in 2018, when Villanova beat Michigan on TBS. ... The felony assault case against former Nebraska interim football coach and assistant **Mickey Joseph** was dismissed because the alleged victim refused to testify. Joseph had faced a charge of assault by strangulation or suffocation in connection with a November domestic disturbance at a Lincoln home.

Kansas is banning transgender athletes from girls' and women's sports from kindergarten through college, the first of several possible new laws restricting the rights of transgender people pushed through by Republican legislators over the wishes of the Democratic governor.

Former Denver Broncos quarterback **John Elway's** contract as an outside consultant to **George Paton**, his hand-picked successor as general manager, expired last month and wasn't renewed. "I'll still be around as a resource," Elway told KUSA-TV in Denver, the team's flagship station

In the NBA, **Bobby Portis** had 27 points and 13 rebounds, starting in place of the injured **Giannis Antetokounmpo,** and the host Milwaukee Bucks wrapped up the top seed in the playoffs, beating Chicago 105-92. ... **Malcolm Brogdon** scored 29 points and hit two late free throws to help host Boston hold on for a 97-93 victory over Toronto. With Milwaukee's win, the Celtics secured the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

No Russian or Belarusian athletes are expected to compete at this year's swimming world championships in Japan because the sport's governing body isn't expected to rule on their eligibility until it's too late for them to enter.

Top-seeded **Jessica Pegula** and past champion **Madison Keys** easily won second-round matches at the Charleston (S.C.) Open. Pegula needed less than 65 minutes to beat **Anna Blinkova** of Russia 6-2, 6-0. Keys worked a couple of minutes more (69) to oust **Hailey Baptiste** 6-1, 6-2 in the season's opening clay-court tournament.

Alex Carpenter scored twice and the United States beat Japan 7-1 to open group play in the women's world hockey championship in Brampton, Canada. Also in Group A, **Anne Renee Desbiens** made 11 saves and Canada beat Switzerland 4-0.

A top group of NASCAR team owners skipped a meeting with series officials with the two sides at an impasse over permanent charters, a key plank in the business model of the stock car series.

Fearing the meeting would be "hijacked" by conversation solely on the charters — multimillion-dollar guarantees of having a car in NASCAR's top Cup Series — the team owner council told NASCAR it felt talks should be postponed.

Lucy Foyt, wife of four-time Indianapolis 500 winner **A.J. Foyt**, died in a Houston hospital following a brief illness. She was 84.

TENNIS RESULTS

$780,637 CHARLESTON OPEN
At Charleston, S.C.
Surface: Green clay

SINGLES (second round)—Daria Kasatkina (3), Russia, d. Madison Brengle, 6-2, 6-1; Julia Grabher, Austria, d. Sachia Vickery, 6-1, 6-2; Diana Shnaider, Russia, d. Veronika Kudermetova (5), Russia, 6-4, 6-3; Paula Badosa (12), Spain, d. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 7-5, 7-6 (6); Ekaterina Alexandrova (7), Russia, d. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-3; Bernarda Pera d. Cristina Bucsa, Spain, 6-3, 6-4; Madison Keys (9), d. Hailey Baptiste, 6-1, 6-2; Caroline Dolehide d. Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; Jessica Pegula (1), d. Anna Blinkova, Russia, 6-2, 6-0; Irina-Camelia Begu (15), Romania, d. Sofia Kenin, 6-1, 6-4; Magda Linette (8), Poland, d. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-4.

$612,820 ESTORIL OPEN
At Estoril, Portugal
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (second round)—Marco Cecchinato, Italy, d. Fabio Fognini, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Sebastian Baez (5), Argentina, d. Pedro Cachin, Argentina, 6-4, 7-6 (2); Casper Ruud (1), Norway, d. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2; Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (3), Spain, d. Luca van Assche, France, 6-3, 7-5.

$259,303 COPA COLSANITAS
At Bogata, Colombia
Surface: Red clay

SINGLES (second round)—Tatjana Maria (2), Germany, d. Carolina Alves, Brazil, 6-2, 6-4; Francesca Jones, Britain, d. Carol Zhao, Canada, 6-2, 6-1; Kamilla Rakhimova (4), Russia, d. Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, 6-0, 6-7 (7), 6-4.

Bouanga leads LAFC to shutout over Vancouver in first leg

LAFC 3
VANCOUVER 0

By Kevin Baxter

LAFC entered the year as arguably the best team in MLS.

It's gotten better since then, as the reigning MLS champions showed in Wednesday's 3-0 victory over the host Vancouver Whitecaps in the first game of a two-leg CONCACAF Champions League quarterfinal.

With a punishingly packed schedule that could have LAFC play as many as 60 times this season, depth will be key. To help with that, general manager John Thorrington added European imports Timothy Tillman, Mateusz Bogusz and defender Sergi Palencia over the last two months.

Tillman and Palencia had impressive performances, but the game was pretty much a one-man show with Denis Bouanga scoring twice and setting up the other goal by Mahala Opoku. Bouanga leads the CCL with five goals in three games heading into the quarterfinal's second leg Tuesday at BMO Stadium, where LAFC needs to avoid a loss by three or more goals to the advance to the semifinals for the second time in four seasons.

The biggest play in a scoreless half came in the 13th minute when LAFC keeper John McCarthy made a diving one-handed save of a Tristan Blackmon shot that was headed in at the far post. Vancouver wouldn't put another shot on goal until the final minute of regulation.

In between, Bouanga took control, giving LAFC the only goal it would need by driving a right-footed shot from distance over Vancouver goalkeeper Yohei Takaoka and off the underside of the crossbar in the 55th minute for the first of three goals in a 10-minute span.

Bouanga set up the second six minutes later when he took the ball away from Vancouver's Andrés Cubas at the top of the Whitecaps' penalty area. The loose ball rolled into the middle of the box for Opoku, who took a short dribble before finishing with a left-footed shot inside the left post.

Bouanga closed the scoring in the 65th minute, taking a pass from Tillman and eluding three defenders to score on a left-footed shot high into the left corner of the net.

NBA

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. y-Denver	52	27	.658		6-4	N1
2. y-Memphis	50	30	.625	2½	7-3	S1
3. y-Sacramento	48	32	.600	4½	5-5	P1
4. x-Phoenix	44	35	.557	8	7-3	P2
5. CLIPPERS	42	38	.525	10½	5-5	P4
5. Golden State	42	38	.525	10½	6-4	P3
7. LAKERS	41	39	.519	11½	7-3	P5
7. New Orleans	41	39	.513	11½	8-2	S2
9. Minnesota	40	40	.500	12½	5-5	N2
10. Oklahoma City	38	42	.475	14½	4-6	N3
10. Dallas	38	42	.475	14½	3-7	S3
12. Utah	36	43	.456	16	3-7	N4
13. Portland	33	46	.418	19	2-8	N5
14. San Antonio	20	59	.253	32	2-8	S4
15. Houston	20	60	.250	32½	2-8	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. z-Milwaukee	58	22	.725		8-2	C1
2. y-Boston	55	25	.688	3	7-3	A1
3. x-Philadelphia	52	27	.658	5½	5-5	A2
4. x-Cleveland	50	30	.625	8	7-3	C2
5. x-New York	47	33	.588	11	7-3	A3
6. Brooklyn	44	36	.550	14	5-5	A4
7. Miami	42	37	.532	15½	6-4	S1
8. Atlanta	41	39	.513	17	6-4	S2
9. Toronto	40	40	.500	18	6-4	A5
10. Chicago	38	42	.475	20	5-5	C3
11. Orlando	34	45	.430	22½	6-4	S3
12. Indiana	34	46	.425	24	2-8	C4
12. Washington	34	46	.425	24	2-8	S4
14. Charlotte	26	54	.325	32	4-6	S5
15. Detroit	16	64	.200	42	0-10	C5

x-clinched playoff berth; y-division; z-conference

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

CLIPPERS 125, LAKERS 118	Brooklyn 123, Detroit 108
New York 138, Indiana 129	Atlanta 134, Washington 116
Boston 97, Toronto 93	Milwaukee 105, Chicago 92
New Orleans 138, Memphis 131	Dallas 123, Sacramento 119

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
Cleveland	4	at Orlando	4 p.m.
at Philadelphia	5½	Miami	4:30 p.m.
at San Antonio	2½	Portland	5 p.m.
Oklahoma City	5	at Utah	6 p.m.
at Phoenix	4½	Denver	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Tuesday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, Philadelphia	65	719	659	2162	33.3
Doncic, Dallas	64	706	502	2096	32.8
Lillard, Portland	58	556	510	1866	32.2
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	67	697	662	2113	31.5
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	63	707	498	1959	31.1
Tatum, Boston	73	720	524	2204	30.2
Mitchell, Cleveland	68	679	319	1922	28.3
Brown, Boston	66	667	263	1759	26.7
Morant, Memphis	60	561	370	1584	26.4
Young, Atlanta	71	586	538	1862	26.2
Markkanen, Utah	66	571	349	1691	25.6
Fox, Sacramento	71	666	336	1785	25.1
LaVine, Chicago	75	662	357	1883	25.1
Randle, New York	77	658	402	1936	25.1
DeRozan, Chicago	72	647	453	1792	24.9
Jokic, Denver	68	644	339	1684	24.8
Edwards, Minnesota	77	686	309	1887	24.5
Siakam, Toronto	69	612	357	1673	24.2

LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

RUSSELL WESTBROOK, left, commits a turnover against Anthony Davis of the Lakers, but Westbrook had a productive game with 14 points, four assists and three rebounds in 21 minutes in a victory.

Rested Clippers defeat Lakers

[**Rivalry,** from B10]
pull to within seven points three minutes later, making the game's final 60 seconds more adventurous than ever expected?

The win told Lue "we definitely can be good," he said. "We got to clean up some things just defensively, too lackadaisical.

"We gave up a lot of points on our mistakes. If we clean those up, we can be a real dangerous team going into the playoffs. We just got to take pride on that defensive end, taking ownership of when we make a mistake, we got to do a better job with our game plan mistakes."

Are the Lakers the team that, playing on a second consecutive night or not, looked completely out of sorts before halftime, with LeBron James held to three points in one of his least productive halves of his storied career? Or will they be the suddenly gritty group whose defense usually keeps them in games.

Citing the scheduling on back-to-back days, James called it "one of the toughest games we've had this year."

With a 27-point rally already on their resume this season, they began another long comeback climb in the third quarter, ratcheting up the pressure behind James' scoring to pull from 24 to within eight. They then refused to fold. James finished with 33 points and Anthony Davis had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

"We're building that identity," Powell said, "and using different people. ... That's the biggest thing for us. We're such a deep team and trying to utilize everybody's specific skill sets and I think we're starting to do that."

The Clippers, who had not played since Saturday, held a three-day advantage in rest. The Lakers' overtime win in Utah only 24 hours earlier stretched James' and Davis' minutes, but in the process also the team's winning streak to four.

The win also guaranteed the Lakers a berth in the play-in tournament. Coach Darvin Ham wasn't ready to celebrate but acknowledged it as a significant achievement after the team's 2-10 start.

"Guys competed their butts off," Ham said.

Ham kept mum before tipoff when asked whether James, Davis, D'Angelo Russell and Mo Bamba would play, just as how Lue had called both Eric Gordon, who would eventually start, and Marcus Morris Sr., who would later be inactive, game-time decisions.

What was clear for days was Russell Westbrook's readiness to exact a measure of revenge against the team that traded him in February. When the lasers stopped and the house lights lifted, Westbrook emerged from the darkness underneath the basket closest to the Lakers' bench, looking the other direction from his former teammates.

After tip, he became what Ham had called "normal Russ," a 6-foot-3 ball of relentless energy. He blocked Austin Reaves' shot on the first possession, then assisted or scored on the first eight points. When he sank a pull-up jumper in front of James, he stared him down.

"I was happy for him," starting center Ivica Zubac said.

The Clippers' lead grew to 12 within four minutes but Westbrook missed three of his next four shots. And within only six minutes the Lakers had pulled ahead by one.

Playing a lineup of three reserve guards in Powell, Bones Hyland and Terance Mann, the Clippers wrested control again to lead 54-38 seven minutes before halftime behind eight of 12 three-point shooting.

With Davis sitting, Zubac found success against Wenyen Gabriel. Zubac finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds.

James's 16 third-quarter points revealed vintage form after his first-half anomaly but with Powell getting to the free-throw line six times in the third quarter, the Clippers were back up 20 midway through the fourth.

"It was a good thing," Lue said, "to see our team to go through a little adversity."

Tired Lakers show little jump

[**Lakers,** from B10]
other than the help the Lakers log reps on their way into a postseason that now seems more likely to include a place in the play-in tournament. James looked heavy-legged, and Davis struggled to find rhythm early before both arrived in the third quarter to tighten the score after the Clippers built a 24-point lead. He scored 17 points on six-of-nine shooting in the third quarter after a miserable first half, when he had five missed shots and four turnovers. In these types of situations, Ham said, he'd expect his players to try and push to play regardless of what the medical staff thinks.

"Guys are gonna be like that because they're prideful and passionate about being available and ready to compete with their team," Ham said pregame. "So, again, that's why you put the best possible people around these guys, in terms of our medical staff. Understanding with a clear vision and not just selfish motives, in terms of we, 'We have to get this game.' No. We have to put our players in the best position to be able succeed."

By the time the team released its injury update Wednesday, it was still unclear whether the team would have its full roster. And pregame, Ham gave no clues to whether Davis or James would be a go, even with Davis already having undergone his usual pregame on-court workout.

"Well, they'll go through their process and then we'll make an assessment and then go from there," he said.

The decision underscored much of what teams around the league face whenever they have a back-to-back on the schedule — particularly one late in the year.

Before Wednesday's game, Ham said he hoped the decisions the Lakers made throughout the year when it came to scheduling could pay off at a moment like this.

"You manage loads throughout the course of the year so when you do get in these moments where you need certain games." Ham said. "you like to hope that all of that time you've spent being careful and being efficient with physical activity and trying to implement rest days or light days, that once you get to this point in time, when you're going to need to lean on people a little more. That's barring any type of injury."

But when injuries are involved, like the ones James and Davis are recovering and monitoring, that changes the equation. "I think once you start getting into a situation where you have players on your team that have legit issues, you have to still be careful," Ham said. "You can't allow ... we appreciate our fans, we appreciate everyone that supports our league. It's huge. It's a beautiful experience for everyone to be invested into the performances of the individuals and the times as a whole, but you also have to be smart.

"As I said at the outset of this, player health is important. And the last thing you want to do is have a player or two or three sell out for one game and then it costs you going forward to the games coming up behind it."

CLIPPERS 125, LAKERS 118

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
James	35	13-20	3-5	0-8	7	0	33
Vanderbilt	24	3-5	2-4	3-6	1	2	8
Davis	32	7-14	3-4	4-11	3	2	17
Reaves	30	6-11	5-5	0-4	2	5	20
Russell	39	6-13	1-2	1-3	7	1	15
Brown Jr.	18	2-5	0-0	0-3	1	1	6
Hachimura	17	1-5	2-2	1-3	0	2	4
Gabriel	15	3-6	0-0	1-4	2	3	6
Schroder	13	1-6	0-2	0-1	4	1	2
Beasley	12	3-4	0-0	0-1	0	0	7
Totals		**45-89**	**16-24**	**10-44**	**27**	**17**	**118**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 66.7%
Three-point goals: 12-29 (James 4-6, Reaves 3-6, Brown Jr. 2-4, Russell 2-6, Beasley 1-1, Davis 0-1, Hachimura 0-1, Schroder 0-1, Vanderbilt 0-1, Gabriel 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Davis 2, James). Turnovers: 14 (James 6, Reaves 2, Vanderbilt 2, Brown Jr., Davis, Gabriel, Russell). Steals: 4 (Davis, Gabriel, James, Vanderbilt). Technical Fouls: None.

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Batum	29	1-7	2-2	0-2	1	2	5
Leonard	42	9-17	3-4	1-7	4	2	25
Zubac	33	6-10	5-6	4-13	1	2	17
Gordon	23	3-7	0-0	0-3	3	0	9
Westbrook	20	6-12	0-1	0-3	4	0	14
Powell	35	8-15	10-10	0-2	4	5	27
Hyland	20	4-7	3-4	0-2	4	3	14
Mann	19	4-5	0-0	0-3	2	1	10
Plumlee	14	2-2	0-0	0-3	0	3	4
Totals		**43-82**	**23-27**	**5-38**	**23**	**18**	**125**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.4%; free throws, 85.2%
Three-point goals: 16-36 (Leonard 4-7, Gordon 3-6, Hyland 3-6, Mann 2-2, Westbrook 2-4, Powell 1-4, Batum 1-7). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Batum, Powell, Westbrook, Zubac). Turnovers: 12 (Westbrook 3, Gordon 2, Zubac 2, Hyland, Leonard, Mann, Plumlee, Powell). Steals: 9 (Batum 2, Powell 2, Zubac 2, Gordon, Hyland, Westbrook). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS	**31**	**21**	**30**	**36—118**
CLIPPERS	**37**	**34**	**22**	**32—125**

A—19,068. T—2:16.

Knicks 138, Pacers 129

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hart	37	2-5	1-2	5-12	7	2	6
Toppin	42	11-18	5-5	0-3	6	3	32
Robinson	30	6-13	2-7	7-16	1	5	14
Grimes	43	14-23	3-4	2-6	5	2	36
Quickley	39	14-26	4-5	2-6	9	2	39
Hartenstein	17	4-6	0-0	2-7	2	2	8
McBride	12	1-6	1-2	0-0	3	3	3
Fournier	10	0-3	0-0	0-0	1	1	0
Sims	5	0-0	0-0	2-2	0	1	0
Totals		**52-100**	**16-25**	**20-52**	**34**	**21**	**138**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.0%; free throws, 64.0%
Three-point goals: 18-46 (Quickley 7-13, Toppin 5-12, Grimes 5-13, Hart 1-2, Fournier 0-3, McBride 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 4. Blocked Shots: 8 (Robinson 7, Hart). Turnovers: 14 (Toppin 4, Hart 3, Quickley 2, Robinson 2, Grimes, Hartenstein, McBride). Steals: 13 (Hart 4, Grimes 3, Quickley 2, Robinson 2, Fournier, Toppin). Technical Fouls: Hart, 6:37 third.

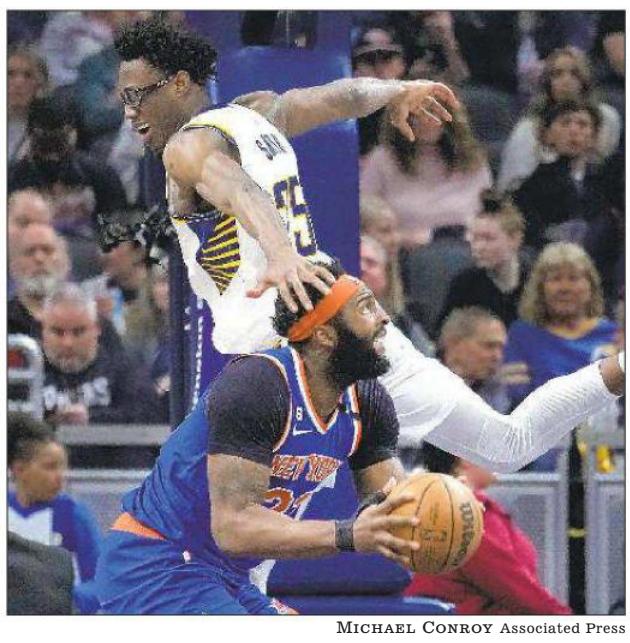
INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Nesmith	26	2-5	6-6	1-4	0	0	12
Nwora	25	3-9	3-4	0-1	1	1	11
Smith	26	8-11	1-1	3-3	0	4	19
Mathurin	32	6-17	4-6	3-8	4	3	17
Nembhard	31	5-13	1-2	1-3	9	3	12
McConnell	22	7-11	3-3	1-5	12	1	18
Hield	21	5-7	0-0	0-2	6	1	13
Jackson	21	3-3	4-6	1-8	0	4	10
Brissett	18	3-4	2-2	0-2	0	0	8
York	14	3-7	0-0	0-1	1	0	9
Totals		**45-87**	**24-30**	**10-37**	**33**	**17**	**129**

Shooting: Field goals, 51.7%; free throws, 80.0%
Three-point goals: 15-30 (Hield 3-5, York 3-6, Smith 2-2, Nesmith 2-4, Nwora 2-6, McConnell 1-1, Nembhard 1-2, Mathurin 1-3, Brissett 0-1). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Smith 3, Hield, Jackson). Turnovers: 17 (Mathurin 6, Nembhard 4, McConnell 2, Nwora 2, Smith 2, Nesmith). Steals: 6 (McConnell 2, Smith 2, Nembhard, Nesmith). Technical Fouls: None.

New York	**38**	**32**	**35**	**33—138**
Indiana	**29**	**38**	**31**	**31—129**

A—16,789. T—2:15.



MICHAEL CONROY Associated Press

UP AND OVER

Knicks center Mitchell Robinson, front, looks to shoot in front of Pacers forward Jalen Smith during the first half of the Knicks' 138-129 triumph.

Pelicans 138, Grizzlies 131, OT

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	37	9-15	2-4	2-6	2	6	25
Jackson Jr.	40	13-28	11-12	4-9	3	4	40
Aldama	6	1-4	0-0	0-1	1	1	2
Bane	42	9-21	4-5	2-4	5	6	24
T.Jones	42	5-9	2-2	0-8	12	1	13
Roddy	38	3-7	0-0	0-6	2	3	7
Lofton Jr.	22	3-9	0-1	3-5	3	3	6
Konchar	22	5-7	0-1	4-9	4	1	10
Chandler	10	1-2	0-0	0-1	1	0	2
Williams Jr.	0	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals		**50-104**	**19-25**	**15-49**	**33**	**25**	**131**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.1%; free throws, 76.0%
Three-point goals: 12-36 (Brooks 5-8, Jackson Jr. 3-9, Bane 2-8, Roddy 1-4, T.Jones 1-4, Aldama 0-1, Lofton Jr. 0-1, Williams Jr. 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Jackson Jr. 4, Konchar, T.Jones). Turnovers: 13 (Brooks 4, Jackson Jr. 3, T.Jones 3, Bane, Lofton Jr., Roddy). Steals: 10 (T.Jones 4, Brooks 2, Bane, Jackson Jr., Konchar, Lofton Jr.). Technical Fouls: Grizzlies, 2:01 second

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Ingram	46	7-18	9-12	0-6	13	3	24
Murphy III	46	9-18	5-6	0-2	4	3	30
Valanciunas	19	1-2	2-2	1-6	1	5	4
H.Jones	43	11-21	8-9	3-7	3	3	35
McCollum	44	10-16	5-10	1-10	6	0	31
Nance Jr.	33	2-3	0-0	3-9	5	3	4
Richardson	15	3-4	0-0	0-0	1	3	8
Daniels	8	0-2	0-0	0-3	2	1	0
Marshall	7	1-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
Totals		**44-88**	**29-39**	**8-44**	**35**	**22**	**138**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.0%; free throws, 74.4%
Three-point goals: 21-39 (Murphy III 7-13, McCollum 6-9, H.Jones 5-8, Richardson 2-3, Ingram 1-4, Daniels 0-2). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (H.Jones 3, Valanciunas 3, Ingram, Marshall). Turnovers: 16 (Ingram 4, McCollum 4, Daniels 2, H.Jones 2, Nance Jr. 2, Marshall, Richardson). Steals: 9 (Murphy III 3, Ingram 2, Daniels, McCollum, Nance Jr., Valanciunas). Technical Fouls: None.

Memphis	**34**	**35**	**21**	**34**	**7—131**
New Orleans	**32**	**20**	**33**	**39**	**14—138**

A—17,232. T—2:38.

Nets 123, Pistons 108

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Johnson	28	6-8	0-0	1-5	2	0	15
O'Neale	37	5-10	1-2	1-7	8	3	15
Claxton	35	8-9	3-3	2-7	2	5	19
Bridges	37	10-26	4-5	1-3	6	0	26
Dinwiddie	32	1-10	4-4	0-3	16	1	6
Harris	20	6-9	0-1	0-2	0	1	18
Sumner	18	3-4	2-2	0-1	0	0	8
Sharpe	11	4-6	2-6	5-7	0	0	10
Curry	8	0-1	0-0	0-2	1	0	0
Watanabe	7	2-3	0-0	1-1	0	2	6
Duke Jr.	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Smith	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**45-86**	**16-23**	**11-38**	**36**	**12**	**123**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.3%; free throws, 69.6%
Three-point goals: 17-43 (Harris 6-9, O'Neale 4-9, Johnson 3-5, Watanabe 2-3, Bridges 2-11, Curry 0-1, Sumner 0-1, Dinwiddie 0-4). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 7 (Claxton 3, O'Neale 2, Bridges, Dinwiddie). Turnovers: 11 (Johnson 4, Dinwiddie 2, Sumner 2, Bridges, Claxton, O'Neale). Steals: 6 (Claxton 2, Sharpe 2, Dinwiddie, Johnson). Technical Fouls: None.

DETROIT

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Duren	34	9-11	0-0	3-8	2	3	18
Omoruyi	14	2-6	0-0	1-2	1	1	6
Wiseman	29	5-10	6-7	0-3	2	1	16
Hayes	35	2-8	0-0	0-4	6	3	4
Ivey	42	9-22	3-3	2-5	10	2	23
Hampton	34	9-15	4-4	1-5	2	4	27
Joseph	30	4-7	0-0	1-3	4	0	12
Rhoden	19	1-5	0-0	1-4	0	4	2
Totals		**41-84**	**13-14**	**9-34**	**27**	**18**	**108**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.8%; free throws, 92.9%
Three-point goals: 13-28 (Hampton 5-8, Joseph 4-5, Omoruyi 2-4, Ivey 2-6, Wiseman 0-1, Hayes 0-2, Rhoden 0-2). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Hampton, Hayes, Wiseman). Turnovers: 14 (Ivey 5, Hayes 3, Omoruyi 3, Duren 2, Hampton). Steals: 5 (Hayes 2, Duren, Joseph, Omoruyi). Technical Fouls: Ivey, 3:09 third.

Brooklyn	**47**	**27**	**22**	**27—123**
Detroit	**34**	**23**	**33**	**18—108**

A—18,313. T—2:06.

Celtics 97, Raptors 93

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anunoby	39	5-16	0-0	2-4	2	2	12
Siakam	34	10-17	8-8	2-11	4	3	28
Poeltl	22	5-8	0-2	3-7	2	2	10
Barnes	39	7-13	2-4	1-8	5	3	18
VanVleet	37	2-14	2-2	1-4	5	3	7
Achiuwa	19	7-11	1-1	4-9	0	2	16
Trent Jr.	15	0-5	0-0	0-2	0	1	0
Barton	14	0-2	0-0	0-1	2	2	0
Boucher	10	1-4	0-0	0-3	0	1	2
Koloko	5	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		**37-90**	**13-17**	**13-50**	**20**	**19**	**93**

Shooting: Field goals, 41.1%; free throws, 76.5%
Three-point goals: 6-33 (Barnes 2-5, Anunoby 2-8, Achiuwa 1-2, VanVleet 1-12, Barton 0-1, Siakam 0-1, Boucher 0-2, Trent Jr. 0-2). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Anunoby 3, Achiuwa, Barnes, Barton, VanVleet). Turnovers: 11 (Barnes 4, Poeltl 2, Achiuwa, Koloko, Siakam, Trent Jr., VanVleet). Steals: 10 (Anunoby 4, Barnes 2, Siakam 2, Poeltl, VanVleet). Technical Fouls: None.

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hauser	27	1-8	0-0	1-6	4	2	3
Muscala	31	4-6	1-2	0-6	2	3	12
Williams III	31	3-4	1-2	3-8	2	2	7
Brown	38	12-29	0-2	1-11	5	0	25
White	40	6-15	3-4	0-4	2	4	17
Brogdon	34	10-19	5-6	2-5	3	2	29
Williams	18	1-5	0-2	1-1	0	1	2
Griffin	12	1-1	0-0	2-5	2	0	2
Kornet	3	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	0	0
Totals		**38-89**	**10-18**	**11-48**	**20**	**14**	**97**

Shooting: Field goals, 42.7%; free throws, 55.6%
Three-point goals: 11-38 (Brogdon 4-6, Muscala 3-5, White 2-7, Hauser 1-8, Brown 1-9, Williams 0-3). Team Rebounds: 14. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 7 (Williams 2, Griffin, Hauser, Muscala, White, Williams III). Turnovers: 15 (Brown 4, Brogdon 3, White 3, Williams III 2, Griffin, Muscala, Williams). Steals: 5 (Hauser 2, White 2, Williams III). Technical Fouls: None.

Toronto	**28**	**16**	**28**	**21—93**
Boston	**31**	**25**	**23**	**18—97**

A—19,156. T—2:09.

Hawks 134, Wizards 116

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gill	19	2-4	0-2	3-5	0	3	4
Kispert	28	5-12	0-2	0-2	1	3	12
Gafford	22	8-10	9-9	4-10	1	3	25
Davis	35	8-18	3-5	0-7	3	4	20
Goodwin	29	4-10	2-2	0-2	6	2	10
Huff	29	5-6	2-2	2-4	3	4	14
Jackson	27	4-11	2-2	1-2	2	2	10
Nunn	26	7-17	0-0	0-1	4	2	15
Cooks	17	2-5	2-2	2-6	3	3	6
Todd	3	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**45-94**	**20-26**	**12-39**	**23**	**26**	**116**

Shooting: Field goals, 47.9%; free throws, 76.9%
Three-point goals: 6-28 (Huff 2-3, Kispert 2-8, Davis 1-4, Nunn 1-6, Gill 0-1, Goodwin 0-3, Jackson 0-3). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 9 (Huff 3, Davis 2, Gafford 2, Cooks, Goodwin). Turnovers: 14 (Davis 4, Gafford 3, Cooks, Goodwin, Huff, Jackson, Kispert, Nunn, Todd). Steals: 10 (Goodwin 4, Davis 2, Cooks, Gafford, Huff, Kispert). Technical Fouls: None.

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bey	25	4-9	0-0	2-4	1	3	10
Collins	25	6-8	8-8	0-3	0	4	23
Capela	15	3-5	3-4	4-8	0	4	9
Murray	30	8-13	2-2	0-7	2	0	19
Young	38	4-10	16-18	0-2	16	2	25
Okongwu	23	2-8	2-2	2-6	3	5	6
Johnson	23	7-11	2-4	0-8	2	1	16
Griffin	22	6-9	0-0	1-3	1	0	16
Holiday	21	2-3	2-2	1-1	4	2	8
Fernando	3	0-2	0-0	1-1	0	2	0
Forrest	3	0-2	0-0	0-1	1	0	0
Krejci	3	0-2	0-0	1-3	0	0	0
Martin	2	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Mathews	2	0-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Totals		**43-84**	**35-40**	**12-48**	**30**	**23**	**134**

Shooting: Field goals, 51.2%; free throws, 87.5%
Three-point goals: 13-30 (Griffin 4-6, Collins 3-4, Holiday 2-2, Bey 2-5, Murray 1-3, Young 1-4, Fernando 0-1, Krejci 0-1, Mathews 0-1, Okongwu 0-1, Johnson 0-2). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Capela 3, Holiday, Okongwu). Turnovers: 16 (Murray 4, Young 4, Bey 2, Johnson 2, Capela, Forrest, Holiday, Okongwu). Steals: 10 (Holiday 3, Murray 2, Okongwu 2, Bey, Capela, Krejci). Technical Fouls: None.

Washington	**32**	**28**	**30**	**26—116**
Atlanta	**33**	**34**	**39**	**28—134**

A—17,727. T—2:11.

Bucks 105, Bulls 92

CHICAGO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DeRozan	36	3-12	2-2	0-3	6	4	8
Williams	28	2-8	0-0	3-6	1	0	6
Vucevic	33	9-21	2-2	2-11	4	2	21
Beverley	28	3-5	0-0	0-5	7	1	8
LaVine	36	5-17	2-3	0-5	7	1	13
White	24	6-10	0-0	0-6	1	0	14
Jones Jr.	19	3-5	0-0	0-0	0	2	8
Dosunmu	16	3-3	2-2	0-0	2	0	8
Drummond	13	1-1	1-2	0-2	0	1	3
Jones	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Simonovic	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Terry	0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals		**36-83**	**9-11**	**5-38**	**28**	**11**	**92**

Shooting: Field goals, 43.4%; free throws, 81.8%
Three-point goals: 11-33 (Beverley 2-4, Jones Jr. 2-4, White 2-4, Williams 2-5, Terry 1-1, Vucevic 1-6, LaVine 1-8, DeRozan 0-1). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Beverley, Jones Jr., LaVine). Turnovers: 15 (White 4, DeRozan 3, Vucevic 3, Williams 2, Beverley, Dosunmu, Jones Jr.). Steals: 10 (Beverley 4, DeRozan 2, Dosunmu 2, Jones Jr. 2). Technical Fouls: None.

MILWAUKEE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Middleton	8	0-3	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Portis	36	9-18	3-3	2-13	1	1	27
Lopez	36	10-19	6-8	3-7	1	2	26
Carter	32	6-11	0-0	1-4	2	3	16
Holiday	36	8-17	0

BASEBALL

NL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
DODGERS	4	2	.667	–	4-2
Arizona	3	3	.500	1	3-3
San Diego	3	3	.500	1	3-3
San Francisco	2	3	.400	1½	2-3
Colorado	2	4	.333	2	2-4
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Milwaukee	5	1	.833	–	5-1
Pittsburgh	4	2	.667	1	4-2
Cincinnati	3	2	.600	1½	3-2
Chicago	2	3	.400	2½	2-3
St. Louis	2	4	.333	3	2-4
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Atlanta	5	1	.833	–	5-1
Miami	3	4	.429	2½	3-4
New York	3	4	.429	2½	3-4
Philadelphia	1	5	.167	4	1-5
Washington	1	5	.167	4	1-5

Wednesday's results
at Miami 5, Minnesota 2
at New York Yankees 4, Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 7, at Washington 2
Atlanta 5, at St. Louis 2
Pittsburgh 4, at Boston 1
at Milwaukee 7, New York 6
at Chicago White Sox 7, San Francisco 3
Chicago at Cincinnati, rain

AL STANDINGS

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	L10
ANGELS	4	2	.667	–	4-2
Texas	4	2	.667	–	4-2
Houston	3	4	.429	1½	3-4
Oakland	2	4	.333	2	2-4
Seattle	2	5	.286	2½	2-5
Central	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Cleveland	5	2	.714	–	5-2
Minnesota	4	2	.667	½	4-2
Chicago	3	3	.500	1½	3-3
Detroit	2	4	.333	2½	2-4
Kansas City	1	5	.167	3½	1-5
East	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**	**L10**
Tampa Bay	6	0	1.000	–	6-0
New York	4	2	.667	2	4-2
Baltimore	3	3	.500	3	3-3
Toronto	3	3	.500	3	3-3
Boston	2	4	.333	4	2-4

Wednesday's results
ANGELS 4, at Seattle 3
at Miami 5, Minnesota 2
at New York 4, Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 7, at Washington 2
Pittsburgh 4, at Boston 1
at Texas 5, Baltimore 2
at Houston 8, Detroit 2
at Chicago 7, San Francisco 3
Cleveland 6, at Oakland 4, 10 innings
Toronto 3, at Kansas City 0

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
Dodgers/May (R)	0-0	0.00	7 p.m.
ARI/Kelly (R)	0-0	0.00	SNLA
WAS/Gray (R)	0-1	9.00	1 p.m.
COL/Freeland (L)	1-0	0.00	
SD/Snell (L)	0-1	6.23	4:15 p.m.
ATL/Strider (R)	1-0	0.00	MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
BOS/Sale (L)	0-0	21.00	10 a.m.
DET/Turnbull (R)	0-1	27.00	
TOR/Gausman (R)	0-1	0.00	11 a.m.
KC/Lyles (R)	0-1	1.69	

INTERLEAGUE >>>

MATCHUP	W-L	ERA	TIME
SF/Wood (L)	—	—	11 a.m.
CHI/Lynn (R)	0-0	3.18	

ODDS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
DODGERS	-148	at Arizona	+126
at Colorado	-132	Washington	+112
at Atlanta	-164	San Diego	+138

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
Boston	-158	at Detroit	+134
Toronto	-180	at Kansas City	+152

INTERLEAGUE

Favorite		Underdog	
at Chicago White Sox	-136	San Francisco	+116

NOTES

Hendriks done with his chemo

Chicago White Sox closer **Liam Hendriks** completed his final round of chemotherapy for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Hendriks posted a video on Instagram of him ringing the "victory bell" and a note thanking his medical team, wife, family and fans.

"These past 5 months have been both the quickest and slowest of my life," he wrote. "Being able to ring this victory bell has been one of the most emotional things I've ever done."

Etc.

Milwaukee Brewers left-hander **Aaron Ashby** will have arthroscopic surgery on his throwing shoulder and could miss the season. .... A threat of rain and thunderstorms forced the New York Mets, Philadelphia Phillies and Baltimore Orioles to postpone their Thursday home openers until Friday. ... The game between the host Cincinnati Reds and Chicago Cubs was postponed because of rain and rescheduled as part of a split doubleheader on Sept. 1. ... Miami Marlins center fielder **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** left the game against the Twins in the first with a stinger in his right shoulder after a steal attempt.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angels win even without Ohtani's best

Pitcher doesn't have his usual command, but it's more than enough for series win over Mariners.

ANGELS 4
SEATTLE 3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE — Shohei Ohtani held Seattle to one run in six innings and drove in a run, leading the Angels to a 4-3 victory over the Mariners on Wednesday.

Ohtani (1-0) kept the Mariners scoreless after giving up a run in a bumpy first inning, finishing his day having given up three hits and striking out eight.

Ohtani drove in Taylor Ward with a single in the top of the seventh against Mariners reliever Andrés Muñoz to put the Angels ahead 4-1.

Ohtani walked four and hit two batters, but his contributions on the mound and at the plate were good enough to lead the Angels to victory.

"He just didn't have the command that he normally does," Angels manager Phil Nevin said. "I'm sure he'll tell you the same, but when he's not on his game and pitches like that, we'll take that every day against a good lineup."

He made more history as he called for two pitch-clock violations on the mound and one at the plate.

After struggling to find his command early, Ohtani settled down in his final three innings, giving up only one hit and striking out five batters.

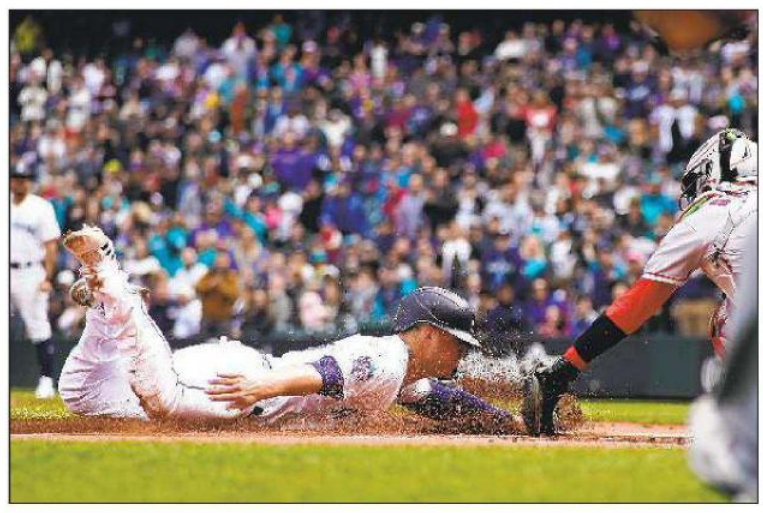
"The biggest thing for me was I couldn't command my fastball," Ohtani said. "That was the biggest issue I was seeing throughout the game."

Ohtani struck out the side in the sixth inning, finishing his day by whiffing AJ Pollock with his 111th and final pitch.

Logan O'Hoppe hit a two-run homer against Mariners starter Chris Flexen (0-1) to put the Angels on top 2-1 in the second inning.

Ohtani and Mike Trout drove in runs off Muñoz in the seventh inning.

The Mariners brought the potential winning run to the plate in the ninth inning, but Ty France struck out to end the game for José Quijada's first save as the Angels took two of three games.



LINDSEY WASSON Associated Press

TY FRANCE of the Mariners slides at the plate, but Angels catcher Logan O'Hoppe gets the tag on him before he can score.

ANGELS 4
MARINERS 3

Streak	Won 1	**This month**	4-1
Home	0-0	**Road**	4-2
Division	4-2	**Interleague**	0-0

Next: Friday vs. Toronto, Angel Stadium, 6:30 p.m.
TV/Radio: Bally Sports West/830, 1330

Angels	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Ohtani p	2	0	1	1	.286
Ward lf	4	1	0	0	.370
Phillips lf	0	0	0	0	---
Trout cf	3	0	1	1	.368
Renfroe rf	3	0	0	0	.167
Drury 2b-1b	4	0	0	0	.200
Lamb 1b	4	0	0	0	.200
Fletcher ss	0	0	0	0	.100
Urshela 3b	4	2	2	0	.333
Rngifo ss	4	0	0	0	.150
O'Hoppe c	4	1	1	2	.278
Totals	**32**	**4**	**5**	**4**	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Rodríguez cf	4	1	0	0	.267
France 1b	3	1	1	1	.357
Suárez 3b	4	0	2	2	.357
Raleigh c	4	0	0	0	.273
Hernández rf	3	0	1	0	.167
Wong 2b	3	0	0	0	.063
Pollock dh	2	0	0	0	.167
b-Huml dh	1	0	0	0	.000
Kelenic lf	2	0	1	0	.200
a-Haggerty lf	2	1	1	0	.167
Crawford ss	4	0	2	0	.227
Totals	**32**	**3**	**8**	**3**	

Angels	020	000	200	4	5	0
Seattle	100	000	200	3	8	0

a-singled for Kelenic in the 7th. b-grounded out for Pollock in the 8th.

Walks—Angels 6: Ohtani 2, Ward 1, Trout 2, Renfroe 1. Seattle 4: Rodríguez 1, France 1, Wong 1, Pollock 1. **Strikeouts**—Angels 11: Ward 2, Trout 1, Renfroe 2, Drury 3, Rengifo 2, O'Hoppe 1. Seattle 10: Rodríguez 2, France 1, Suárez 1, Raleigh 1, Hernández 2, Wong 1, Pollock 1, Kelenic 1. **LOB**—Angels 7, Seattle 8. **2B**—Urshela (1), France (4). **HR**—O'Hoppe (2), off Flexen. **RBIs**—O'Hoppe 2 (8), Trout (3), Ohtani (6), Suárez 2 (5), France (5). **RISP**—Angels 2 for 10; Seattle 2 for 6. **Runners moved up**—Rengifo. **GIDP**—Crawford. **DP**—Angels 1 (Lamb, Rengifo, Lamb).

Angels	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ohtani, W, 1-0	6	3	1	1	4	8	111	0.75
Moore, H, 2	⅔	1	1	1	0	1	14	5.40
Herget, H, 3	1⅓	3	1	1	0	0	26	2.70
Quijada, S, 1-1	1	1	0	0	0	1	17	0.00
Seattle	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Flexen, L, 0-1	5	2	2	2	2	4	91	3.00
Brash	1	0	0	0	2	2	23	2.70
D.Castillo	⅔	1	2	2	1	1	14	10.13
Muñoz	⅓	2	0	0	1	1	16	0.00
Murfee	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	0.00
Gott	1	0	0	0	0	2	13	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Herget 1-1, Muñoz 2-2. **HBP**—Ohtani 2 (France,Hernández). **WP**—Ohtani, Brash.
U—Pat Hoberg, Nestor Ceja, Charlie Ramos, Brian O'Nora. **T**—2:55. **Tickets sold**—25,648 (47,929).

MARLINS 5
TWINS 2

Bryan De La Cruz hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, Jorge Soler homered twice, including a three-run shot for his third of the season, and Jesús Luzardo struck out 10 to lift Miami.

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Buxton dh	4	0	1	0	.350
Correa ss	3	0	0	0	.208
Solano 1b	3	0	1	0	.222
a-Gallo 1b	1	0	0	0	.235
Miranda 3b	4	0	0	0	.143
Farmer 2b	4	1	1	0	.182
Jeffers c	3	1	1	0	.444
Castro lf	4	0	0	0	.000
Larnach rf	4	0	1	1	.391
Taylor cf	3	0	1	0	.200
Totals	**33**	**2**	**6**	**1**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Chislm Jr. cf	1	0	1	0	.190
DL Cruz cf	3	1	1	1	.235
Soler dh	4	2	2	4	.259
Cooper 1b	4	0	0	0	.261
García rf	3	0	0	0	.158
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	.300
Sánchez lf	2	0	0	0	.111
Segura 3b	3	1	2	0	.190
Berti ss	3	1	1	0	.222
Hampson 2b	2	0	0	0	.000
b-Arraez 2b	1	0	0	0	.458
Totals	**29**	**5**	**7**	**5**	

Minnesota	000	000	101	2	6	0
Miami	100	000	04x	5	7	1

a-struck out for Solano in the 8th. b-pinch hit for Hampson in the 8th.

Walks—Minnesota 2: Correa 1, Jeffers 1. Miami 1: Sánchez 1.
Strikeouts—Minnesota 12: Buxton 2, Correa 1, Solano 1, Gallo 1, Miranda 1, Farmer 1, Jeffers 1, Castro 1, Larnach 2, Taylor 1. Miami 10: Soler 1, Cooper 1, García 2, Fortes 1, Sánchez 2, Segura 1, Hampson 1, Arraez 1.
E—Segura (2). **LOB**—Minnesota 6, Miami 1. **2B**—Jeffers (1). **HR**—Soler (2), off PLópez; Soler (3), off Thielbar. **RBIs**—Larnach (6), Soler 4 (6), De La Cruz (1). **SB**—Sánchez (1), Taylor (1). **CS**—Chisholm Jr. (1), Castro (1), Segura (1).
Runners left in scoring position—Minnesota 3 (Miranda 2, Larnach); Miami 1 (Berti). **RISP**—Minnesota 2 for 7; Miami 2 for 4.
Runners moved up—Castro.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
PLópez	7	3	1	1	1	8	88	0.73
Jax, L, 0-1	⅓	2	2	2	0	1	9	7.71
Thielbar	⅔	2	2	2	0	1	13	6.75
Miami	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Luzardo	7	5	1	1	1	10	99	0.71
Floro, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	0	1	16	0.00
Puk	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	9.00

Inherited runners-scored—Thielbar 2-2. **WP**—Puk.
U—Andy Fletcher, Ryan Wills, Mike Estabrook, Laz Diaz. **T**—2:10. **Tickets sold**—8,981 (37,446).

RAYS 7
NATIONALS 2

Wander Franco and Harold Ramirez each had two hits, including a homer, as Tampa Bay, which has outscored opponents 44-13, extended its best start in franchise history to 6-0.

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Díaz 1b	4	2	1	0	.333
Franco ss	4	1	2	2	.417
Paredes 3b	4	0	0	0	.235
Arozarena lf	4	1	2	1	.364
H.Rmírz dh	4	1	2	1	.167
Margot rf	4	1	1	0	.167
Walls 2b	4	1	2	1	.313
Siri cf	3	0	1	2	.333
Mejía c	4	0	0	0	.091
Totals	**35**	**7**	**11**	**7**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Thomas rf	3	0	0	0	.333
Call lf	3	0	0	0	.273
Cndelrio 3b	4	0	0	0	.174
Meneses 1b	4	1	1	0	.200
Ruiz c	4	0	1	0	.294
Chavis 2b	3	0	1	1	.333
a-Vargas	1	0	0	0	.125
Garrett dh	2	1	1	0	.500
Robles cf	3	0	2	1	.353
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	.118
Totals	**31**	**2**	**6**	**2**	

Tampa Bay	012	003	100	7	11	0
Washington	010	100	000	2	6	1

a-pinch hit for Chavis in the 9th.

Walks—Tampa Bay 2: Díaz 1, Franco 1. Washington 6: Thomas 2, Call 1, Garrett 2, Robles 1.
Strikeouts—Tampa Bay 6: Paredes 2, Margot 2, Siri 1, Mejía 1. Washington 7: Thomas 1, Call 1, Candelario 1, Ruiz 1, Vargas 1, Abrams 2.
E—Thomas (1). **LOB**—Tampa Bay 4, Washington 8. **2B**—Walls (1), Robles (1), Meneses (1). **HR**—Franco (2), off Corbin; H.Ramírez (1), off Corbin. **RBIs**—Siri 2 (8), Franco 2 (7), H.Ramírez (1), Walls (1), Arozarena (6), Robles (1), Chavis (1). **SB**—Thomas (1), Margot (2). **CS**—Franco (1), Thomas (0), Call (1). **SF**—Siri.
Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 3 (Mejía 2, H.Ramírez); Washington 5 (Thomas 3, Abrams, Meneses). **RISP**—Tampa Bay 4 for 8; Washington 3 for 12.
Runners moved up—Candelario. **GIDP**—Candelario.
DP—Tampa Bay 1 (Franco, Walls, Díaz).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McClanahan, W, 2-0	6	5	2	2	4	6	94	1.50
Poche	1	1	0	0	0	0	13	0.00
Cleavinger	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.00
R.Thompson	1	0	0	0	2	1	23	0.00
Washington	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Corbin, L, 0-2	6	10	6	6	0	3	99	8.00
Ward	2	1	1	1	2	3	40	6.75
Banda	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	3.00

U—Dan Merzel, Edwin Moscoso, Larry Vanover, Chris Guccione. **T**—2:32. **Tickets sold**—13,836 (41,376).

BREWERS 7
METS 6

Leading off the ninth inning of a tied game, Milwaukee's Garrett Mitchell blasted a game-winning shot into the right-field seats for his third homer in his last two games to lift the Brewers.

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Nimmo cf	5	0	0	0	.238
Marte rf	3	2	1	0	.280
Lindor ss	4	2	3	2	.227
Alonso 1b	4	2	2	4	.192
Vglbch dh	1	0	0	0	.200
1-Lcstro dh	0	0	0	0	.000
McNeil 2b	4	0	0	0	.250
Canha lf	4	0	0	0	.160
Narváez c	4	0	1	0	.286
Nido c	0	0	0	0	.000
Gllrme 3b	4	0	0	0	.167
Totals	**33**	**6**	**7**	**6**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Brssau 3b	3	0	1	0	.167
b-Mtchll cf	2	1	1	1	.300
Adames ss	2	0	0	0	.238
Yelich lf	3	1	0	0	.217
Contreras c	3	0	1	0	.250
Voit 1b	4	1	2	0	.222
Andrsn rf	3	1	1	0	.500
Winker dh	4	1	2	2	.333
Miller 2b	2	1	1	1	.500
a-Turang 2b	2	0	0	0	.313
Wiemer cf	4	1	1	3	.353
Totals	**32**	**7**	**10**	**7**	

New York	103	020	000	6	7	0
Milwaukee	040	020	001	7	10	0

No outs when winning run scored. a-struck out for Miller in 5th. b-struck out for Brosseau in 6th. 1-ran for Vogelbach in 8th.

Walks—New York 3: Vogelbach 3. Milwaukee 5: Adames 2, Yelich 1, Contreras 1, Anderson 1. **Strikeouts**—New York 5: Nimmo 1, Alonso 1, McNeil 1, Canha 1, Narváez 1. Milwaukee 10: Brosseau 1, Mitchell 1, Adames 1, Yelich 2, Voit 2, Anderson 1, Turang 1, Wiemer 1. **LOB**—New York 4, Milwaukee 6. **2B**—Lindor 2 (3), Marte (2), Winker 2 (2). **HR**—Alonso 2 (3), off Burnes; Wiemer (1), off Peterson; Mitchell (3), off Ottavino. **RBIs**—Lindor 2 (3), Alonso 4 (6), Miller (1), Wiemer 3 (3), Winker 2 (7), Mitchell (5). **SB**—Marte (3), Voit (1), Locastro (1). **CS**—Adames (1). **Runners left in scoring position**—New York 3 (Canha, Nimmo, McNeil); Milwaukee 2 (Turang, Winker). RISP_New York 3 for 8; Milwaukee 3 for 7. **Runners moved up**—Guillorme. **GIDP**—McNeil. **DP**—Milwaukee 1 (Voit, Adames).

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson	4	5	5	5	5	5	92	6.00
Smith	1	2	1	1	0	2	29	3.38
Curtiss	2	2	0	0	0	3	26	2.25
Robertson	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.00
Ottavino, L, 0-1	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	4.50
Milwaukee	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Burnes	4⅓	7	6	6	2	3	93	9.64
Milner	1⅔	0	0	0	0	1	14	0.00
Strzelecki	1	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.00
Bush	1	0	0	0	1	1	15	0.00
Williams, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.00

Inherited runners-scored—Smith 1-1, Milner 1-0. **HBP**—Burnes (Marte).
U—Mike Muchlinski, Sean Barber, Alan Porter, Jim Wolf. **T**—2:45. **Tickets sold**—18,387 (41,700).

BRAVES 5
CARDINALS 2

Matt Olson homered and drove in three runs, and Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of St. Louis. Bryce Elder, who was called up Tuesday, pitched six strong innings, giving up two hits.

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Acuña Jr. rf	5	2	2	0	.370
Olson 1b	5	2	3	3	.308
Riley 3b	4	1	2	1	.273
d'Arnaud c	4	0	0	0	.385
Harris II cf	4	0	1	0	.227
Albies 2b	3	0	1	1	.304
Ozuna dh	3	0	0	0	.059
Rosario lf	4	0	0	0	.231
Arcia ss	4	0	1	0	.304
Totals	**36**	**5**	**10**	**5**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Donovan 2b	2	0	0	0	.273
Burleson lf	3	0	1	0	.313
b-Cntrera c	1	0	0	0	.333
Gldsmdt 1b	1	0	0	0	.450
Arenado 3b	4	0	1	0	.308
Gorman dh	4	0	1	0	.438
Carlson cf	4	1	1	0	.385
Walker rf	4	1	2	2	.333
Edman ss	4	0	0	0	.261
Knizner c	2	0	0	0	.143
a-O'Neill lf	1	0	0	0	.278
Totals	**30**	**2**	**6**	**2**	

Atlanta	310	100	000	5	10	0
St. Louis	000	000	101	2	6	0

a-flied out for Knizner in 8th. b-lined out for Burleson in 8th.

Walks—Atlanta 1: Ozuna 1. St. Louis 4: Donovan 2, Goldschmidt 2 **Strikeouts**—Atlanta 8: Acuña Jr. 1, Olson 1, Harris II 2, Ozuna 2, Rosario 1, Arcia 1. St. Louis 7: Donovan 1, Burleson 1, Arenado 2, Gorman 2, Walker 1.
LOB—Atlanta 6, St. Louis 6. **2B**—Olson 2 (3), Riley (1), Gorman (1), Carlson (1), Walker (2). **HR**—Olson (3), off Mikolas; Walker (1), off Tonkin. **RBIs**—Olson 3 (7), Riley (5), Albies (4), Walker 2 (5). **SB**—Harris II (1). **SF**—Albies.
Runners left in scoring position—Atlanta 3 (Rosario, Riley, Harris II); St. Louis 2 (Edman, Arenado). **RISP**—Atlanta 1 for 5; St. Louis 1 for 3. **LIDP**—Gorman. **GIDP**—Burleson.
DP—Atlanta 2 (Olson, Arcia, Olson; Olson).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Elder, W, 1-0	6	2	0	0	3	6	79	0.00
Tonkin	1	1	1	1	0	1	17	2.70
Lee	⅔	0	0	0	1	0	14	0.00
McHugh	1	3	1	1	0	0	27	2.45
Chavez, S, 1-1	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.00
St. Louis	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Mikolas, L, 0-1	6	9	5	5	1	6	98	9.64
Naughton	1	1	0	0	0	0	20	0.00
Stratton	2	0	0	0	0	2	28	2.45

Inherited runners-scored—McHugh 1-0, Chavez 1-0. **HBP**—Elder (Goldschmidt).
U—Todd Tichenor, Brian Knight, Tony Randazzo, Junior Valentine. **T**—2:27. **Tickets sold**—36,300 (44,494).

YANKEES 4
PHILLIES 2

Gerrit Cole pitched shutout ball into the seventh and Gleyber Torres had three hits to raise his season average to .421. Philadelphia has skidded to a 1-5 start, its worst since 2007.

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Turner ss	4	0	1	0	.370
Schwarber lf	4	1	1	1	.154
Rlmuto c	4	0	0	0	.263
Hall 1b	2	0	1	0	.222
Sosa 3b-cf	2	0	0	0	.300
Castllans dh	3	1	0	0	.182
Stott 2b	4	0	2	0	.435
Bohm 3b-1b	2	0	0	0	.350
Cave rf	1	0	0	1	.167
Pache cf	2	0	0	0	.000
a-Harrisn 3b	1	0	0	0	.167
Totals	**29**	**2**	**5**	**2**	

New York	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
LeMahieu 2b	3	1	1	0	.300
Judge cf	3	1	1	0	.348
Rizzo 1b	4	0	1	0	.313
Torres dh	4	0	3	2	.421
Dnldsn 3b	1	0	0	0	.125
K.-Falefa 3b	3	0	0	0	.000
Grandal c	4	0	2	1	.440
Sheets dh	4	0	2	3	.222
Grandal c	3	0	0	0	.278
Colás rf	4	1	1	0	.286
Andrus	4	1	1	0	.130
2b-ss					
Totals	**36**	**7**	**13**	**7**	

Philadelphia	000	000	110	2	5	0
New York	100	001	20x	4	9	0

a-pinch hit for Pache in the 7th.

Walks—Philadelphia 3: Castellanos 1, Bohm 1, Cave 1. New York 3: LeMahieu 1, Judge 1, Cabrera 1. **Strikeouts**—Philadelphia 12: Turner 2, Realmuto 3, Sosa 1, Castellanos 3, Stott 1, Bohm 1, Cave 1. New York 8: LeMahieu 1, Judge 1, Rizzo 1, Kiner-Falefa 1, F.Cordero 1, Trevino 1, Volpe 2. **LOB**—Philadelphia 5, New York 6. **2B**—Stott (3), Cabrera (1), LeMahieu (2), Torres (1). **HR**—Schwarber (2), off Loáisiga; Trevino (1), off Soto. **RBIs**—Cave (1), Schwarber (4), Torres 2 (6), Trevino 2 (3). **SB**—Judge (1), Torres 2 (5). **CS**—Torres (1). **SF**—Cave. **Runners left in scoring position**—Philadelphia 3 (Harrison, Bohm, Pache); New York 4 (Kiner-Falefa, Rizzo, F.Cordero, Trevino). **RISP**—Philadelphia 0 for 3; New York 2 for 11.
Runners moved up—F.Cordero. **GIDP**—Trevino.
DP—Philadelphia 1 (Sosa, Stott, Bohm).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Nola, L, 0-1	6	7	3	3	1	5	87	7.45
Soto	1	1	1	1	2	3	34	18.00
Domínguez	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	18.00
New York	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**	**NP**	**ERA**
Cole, W, 2-0	6⅔	3	1	1	3	8	103	0.73
Loáisiga, H, 2	1⅓	2	1	1	0	1	16	2.70
Holmes, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	0	3	16	6.75

Inherited runners-scored—Soto 1-1, Loáisiga 1-1. **HBP**—Loáisiga (Bohm).
U—Nic Lentz, Jeremie Rehak, Paul Emmel, Chad Fairchild. **T**—2:30. **Tickets sold**—35,847 (47,309).

PIRATES 4
RED SOX 1

Bryan Reynolds knocked in his seventh run of the year and Mitch Keller struck out seven for a three-game sweep. It was Pittsburgh's first road sweep of an AL team since 2018 at Detroit.

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Cruz ss	4	1	1	0	.261
Joe rf	1	0	0	0	.333
Reynolds lf	3	1	1	1	.417
McCthn dh	4	0	2	0	.267
Santana 1b	4	1	2	2	.174
Hayes 3b	4	0	1	1	.125
Suwinski rf	2	0	0	0	.111
Castro 2b-ss	4	0	0	0	.083
Bae cf-2b	4	0	1	0	.222
Delay c	4	1	1	0	.250
Totals	**34**	**4**	**9**	**4**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	Avg.
Verdugo rf	3	0	0	0	.346
Devers 3b	3	0	0	0	.296
Turner dh	3	0	1	0	.318
Yoshida lf	4	0	0	0	.200
Casas 1b	4	1	1	0	.158
Arroyo 2b	3	0	2	1	.188
Tapia cf	3	0	1

There's no souvenir like gnome

[**Masters,** from B10]
of thousands who had gathered for the annual par-three contest.

During the yearly five-month course closure, Augusta National refashioned five holes on the par-three course, including installing new tee boxes and greens.

Others who had aces were defending Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson and Tom Hoge, who wound up winning the lighthearted event, when lots of players have wives, girlfriends or family members as caddies.

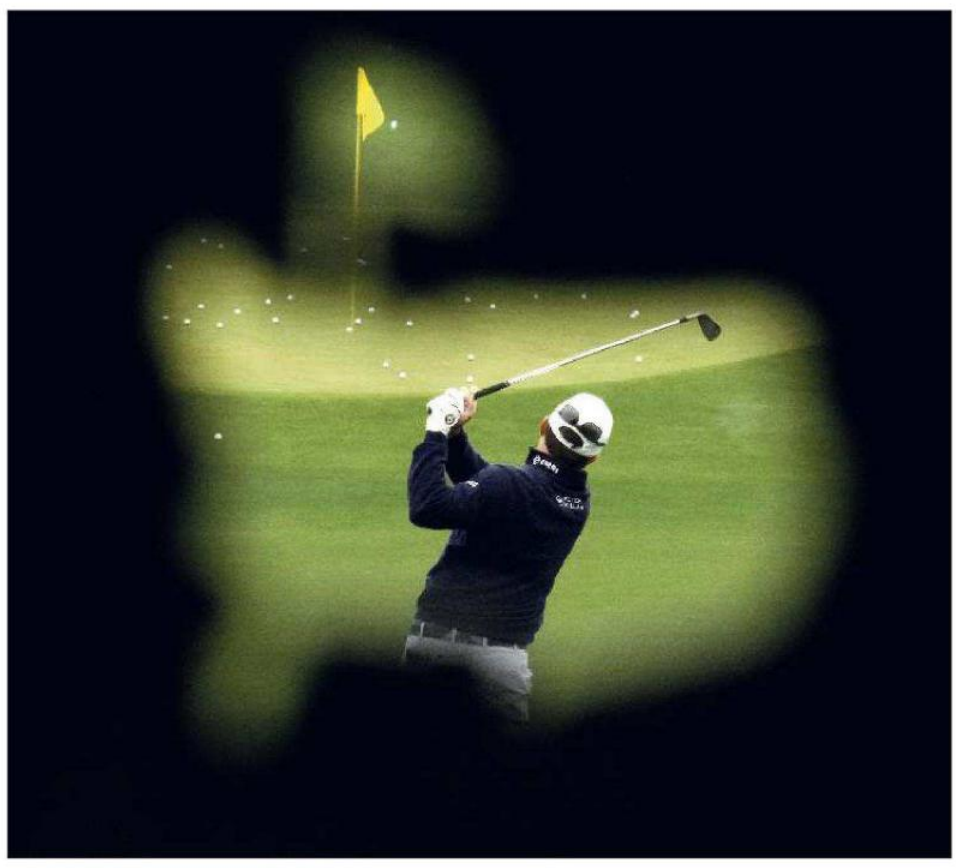
Hoge shot a six-under-par 21 on the nine-hole course, with four threes, four twos and a hole in one.

It's good news/bad news for him: He won, yes, but no one has won the par-three contest and Masters in the same year.

Perhaps the event's most memorable hole in one came in 2018, when six-time Masters champion Jack Nicklaus allowed his grandson, G.T., to hit a tee shot on No. 9.

Ace!

The elder Nicklaus would call it the greatest Masters moment of his career.



CHARLIE RIEDEL Associated Press

KEVIN KISNER gets some practice in at Augusta National. The Masters week began Wednesday with the par-three contest, which featured five holes in one.

Garden gnome from Masters

As usual, the hottest item at the merchandise center is the Masters garden gnome, which changes in details every year but is always a must-have souvenir. They retail for $49.50, and it's one per customer.

This year, it's a bearded gnome dressed as a Masters patron, complete with a white cap, blue polo and holding a Masters drink cup.

For some fans, particularly ones who don't have tickets, anything with an Augusta National logo is coveted.

Last year, a memorabilia salesman in a strip mall on Washington Road, across the street from the club, was selling a Masters shoehorn for $40, a matchbook bearing the Augusta National logo for $8, and a paper cocktail napkin for $5.

One man's tchotchkes are another man's *ching-ching*.

On the ropes

You might know that cell phones are strictly banned on the course, either for calls or as cameras. But did you know the Masters is the only event on the PGA Tour that doesn't allow inside-the-ropes access for media members?

That makes for an interesting challenge when photographers are trying to get that perfect shot.

They are moving around all day, so they don't have the luxury of staying in one spot to reserve an open spot along the ropes.

The seasoned Masters photographers, typically lugging 20 to 30 pounds of equipment, briskly make a beeline to high ground when they're approaching a hole — no running allowed — and are pros at sweet-talking patrons to scoot over just a smidge.

Although the photographers are not permitted to use phones to transmit their images from the course, there are some secret stations at a few spots — hidden behind walls and camouflaged with green paint — where they can upload their photos to the media center (and nowhere else) via an ethernet connection.

That allows them to keep working with minimal interruption.

Tiger tales

Nobody knows this course better than Tiger Woods, and the five-time Masters champion is more willing than ever to share his knowledge of how to play it with younger competitors. However, there was a time when he was much more of a student than a professor.

He recalled this week a tip he received from Raymond Floyd about hitting an approach into the second green with the pin placed in a tricky, back-left spot.

Floyd suggested — half-jokingly, we hope — that Woods use the spectators as a human backstop, hitting into the gallery behind the pin and yelling "Fore!" just a little late, so nobody can really scatter. That would raise the odds of a soft landing or maybe even a lucky ricochet.

That spot behind the green provides some ideal viewing. You first.

PRO CALENDAR

	THU 6	FRI 7	SAT 8	SUN 9	MON 10
DODGERS	at Arizona 7 SNLA	at Arizona 6:30 SNLA	at Arizona 5 SNLA	at Arizona 1 SNLA	at San Francisco 6:45 SNLA
ANGELS		TORONTO 6:30 BSW	TORONTO 6 BSW	TORONTO 1 BSW	WASH. 6:30 BSW
LAKERS		PHOENIX 7:30 SpecSN		UTAH 12:30 SpecSN	
CLIPPERS			PORTLAND 1 BSSC	at Phoenix 12:30 BSSC	
KINGS	at Vegas 7 BSW		COLORADO 7:30 BSW		VANCOUVER 7:30 BSW
DUCKS			at Arizona 2:30 BSW	COLORADO 5:30 TNT	
GALAXY			at Houston 5:30 Apple TV		
LAFC			AUSTIN 4:30 Ch. 11, Apple TV		
ANGEL CITY	APRIL 15 VS. LOUISVILLE, 7 P.M., CBSSN				

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASEBALL		
4:15 p.m.	San Diego at Atlanta	**TV:** MLB
7 p.m.	Dodgers at Arizona	**TV:** SNLA **R:** 570, 1020
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	Miami at Philadelphia	**TV:** TNT
5:30 p.m.	G League, championship series, Delaware at Rio Grande Valley, Game 2	**TV:** ESPNews
7 p.m.	Denver at Phoenix	**TV:** TNT
COLLEGE BASEBALL		
5 p.m.	Texas A&M at Auburn	**TV:** SEC
5 p.m.	Florida at Tennessee	**TV:** ESPNU
5 p.m.	Clemson at Florida State	**TV:** ACC
7 p.m.	Stanford at California	**TV:** Pac-12
8 p.m.	San Diego at Gonzaga	**TV:** ESPNU
COLLEGE HOCKEY: NCAA TOURNAMENT SEMIFINALS		
2 p.m.	Minnesota vs. Boston U.	**TV:** ESPN2
5:30 p.m.	Michigan vs. Quinnipiac	**TV:** ESPN2
COLLEGE LACROSSE		
4 p.m.	Women, Northwestern at Rutgers	**TV:** Big Ten
COLLEGE SOFTBALL		
3 p.m.	Missouri at Louisiana State	**TV:** SEC
3 p.m.	Arizona State at Utah	**TV:** Pac-12
5 p.m.	Oregon State at UCLA	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL		
7 p.m.	USC at UCLA	**TV:** Pac-12LA
GOLF		
Noon	The Masters, first round	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
HOCKEY		
7 p.m.	Kings at Vegas	**TV:** BSW **R:** iHeart
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC
PREP BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	Girls' State Champions Invitational, Desert Vista (Ariz.) vs. Morris Catholic (N.J.)	**TV:** ESPNU
3 p.m.	Boys' State Champions Invitational, Curtis (Wash.) vs. Roselle Catholic (N.J.)	**TV:** ESPNU
SOCCER		
11:45 a.m.	French Cup, Toulouse at Annecy FC	**TV:** FOXD
3 p.m.	Copa Libertadores, Corinthians at Liverpool	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
5 p.m.	South American U-17 Championship, Argentina vs. Peru	**TV:** FS2
5 p.m.	Copa Libertadores, Boca Juniors at Monagas	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
TENNIS		
8 a.m.	WTA Charleston Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis
4 p.m.	WTA Charleston Open, early rounds	**TV:** Tennis

Oilers may be Kings' stumbling block

[**Elliott,** from B10]
game and it's all defensive right now," Kings defenseman Sean Walker said, "and that's something we're going to have to focus on and find a way to crack and beat them."

The Kings were missing creative forwards Kevin Fiala and Gabe Vilardi, and steady defensemen Mikey Anderson and Alex Edler, which hurts. But they went into the playoffs last spring against Edmonton without Walker, fellow defenseman Drew Doughty and winger Viktor Arvidsson, and still managed to push the Oilers to seven games. As the playoffs approach, coaches and general managers who are normally reluctant to discuss injuries become especially tight-lipped, and coach Todd McLellan declined to provide an update on the current injured players. On Wednesday, the Kings recalled defenseman Jordan Spence.

Asked if the Kings might gain confidence from playing the Oilers close despite missing so many key players, McLellan gave an interesting response. "That could be the case if we meet them in the playoffs or whoever we play in the playoffs. We could be without those guys and three more," he said. "So it really doesn't matter.

"The lesson we learned last year is it doesn't matter who's out. It matters who's in."

Special teams play matters a lot, too, and the Kings on Tuesday were unable to capitalize on four power plays and allowed Edmonton to score on two of four advantages.

The Kings had a well-timed power play at 11:51 of the second period, 21 seconds after Nugent-Hopkins had given the Oilers a 1-0 lead, but they couldn't capitalize. Arvidsson brought the Kings even at 1-1 on a blast from the blue line that eluded a screened Skinner at 10:26 of the third period, but Arvidsson took a slashing penalty 33 seconds later and the Oilers regained the lead on Draisaitl's shot from close range.

"The timing of penalties comes into play a little bit, too," McLellan said. "We just get some energy and some traction and then we're going back to the box. Timing is important as well.

"Our penalty kill did a pretty good job, but both of their goals were on clearing attempts that we weren't successful, and 32 or 35% power plays make you pay for that, and they did tonight."

Darnell Nurse's empty-net goal clinched it, sending the Kings into the last four games of the regular season with some concerns.

"I think we should play a little bit more with the puck maybe but also we have to defend," Arvidsson said. "We have chances to score and we've got to bear down, but it's a little bit of both I think."

The Kings face the Golden Knights on Thursday in Las Vegas, but it's unclear if former teammate Jonathan Quick will start for his new team. Quick took the loss Tuesday in the Golden Knights' 3-2 overtime defeat at Nashville and has lost his last two starts. He's 5-2-1 in nine games, with a 3.43 goals-against average and .895 save percentage, not far off the numbers he compiled for the Kings.

After that, the Kings are home to play defending Stanley Cup champion Colorado before they finish against two nonplayoff teams, at home against the Vancouver Canucks and at Anaheim against the Ducks. McLellan said he hasn't decided if he will continue alternating goalies — Pheonix Copley played Tuesday — or designate one the starter for the playoffs. It seems likely Korpisalo will get the nod because they gave up Quick and a first-round draft pick for him, and Copley has no NHL playoff experience.

But at this point, nothing is sure — especially the Kings' fate if they open against the invigorated Oilers.

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record, and regardless of division.

Surging Oilers beat woefully bad Ducks

Loss ensures Anaheim will finish with fewest points in a full season in franchise history.

EDMONTON 3
DUCKS 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins became the third Edmonton skater to reach 100 points this season, Klim Kostin had a goal and an assist, and the surging Oilers extended their points streak to 12 games with a 3-1 victory over the woeful Ducks on Wednesday night.

Nick Bjugstad and Zach Hyman also scored for the Oilers, who have won six straight and strengthened their hold on second place in the Pacific Division. Jack Campbell stopped 27 shots.

It is the sixth time in franchise history they have had a points streak of at least 12 games. The last was 2005-06 when they had a team-record 16-game run.

Nugent-Hopkins, who had the assist on Hyman's empty-net goal late in the third period, joined Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl to reach the century mark this season with the Oilers. The last time a team had three or more players with at least 100 points was Pittsburgh in 1995-96 (Mario Lemieux, Jaromir Jagr and Ron Francis).

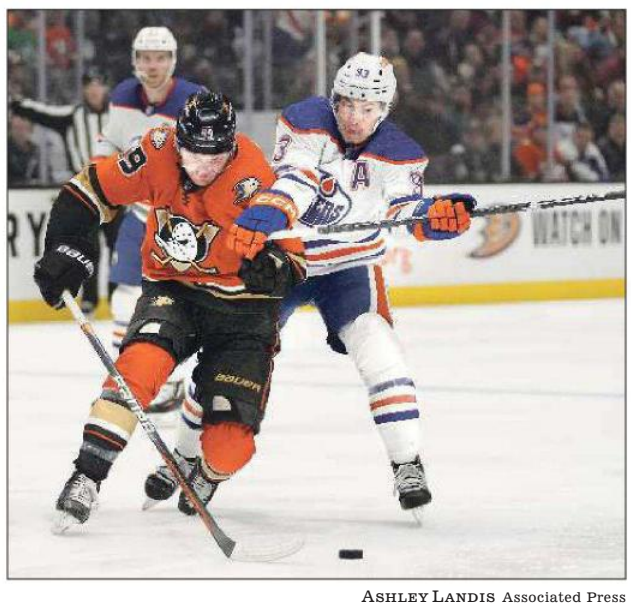
McDavid also had an assist on Hyman's goal to move him within two points of 150.

Troy Terry scored for Anaheim and Lukas Dostal made 30 saves.

The Ducks have dropped nine straight and are 1-10 in their last 11 as they remained tied with Chicago and Columbus for fewest points in the NHL at 56.

It is the third straight season the Ducks have had a winless streak of at least nine games. The loss also guaranteed they would finish with the fewest points in a full 82-game season in franchise history. The previous low was 65 points in 1997-98, which was the fourth-worst record in the league that season.

Kostin, who was playing in his 100th game, got his first point in 11 games midway through the second period when he took the pass from Mattias Ekholm and put a wrist shot from out front.



ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

DUCKS WING Max Jones, left, tries to get away from Edmonton center Ryan Nugent-Hopkins.

OILERS 3, DUCKS 1

Edmonton	0	2	1	– 3
DUCKS	0	0	1	– 1

FIRST PERIOD: Scoring—None. **Penalties—**Fowler, DUCKS (Tripping), 13:27. Nugent-Hopkins, EDM (Slashing), 18:55.

SECOND PERIOD: 1. Edm., Kostin 11 (Janmark), 9:36. 2. Edm., Bjugstad 17 (Kostin), 12:46. **Penalties—**None.

THIRD PERIOD: 3. DUCKS, Terry 22 (Benoit, Henrique), 4:56. 4. Edm., Hyman 35 (Nugent-Hopkins, McDavid), 18:18 (en). **Penalties—**None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Edm. 9-13-11—33. DUCKS 7-13-8—28. Power-play conversions—Edm. 0 of 1. DUCKS 0 of 1.

GOALIES: Edm., Campbell 21-9-4 (28 shots-27 saves). DUCKS, Dostal 4-9-2 (32-30). Att—16,018 (17,174). T—2:22.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Vegas	48	22	8	104	259	223
x-Edmonton	47	23	9	103	312	257
x-KINGS	45	23	10	100	267	245
Seattle	43	26	8	94	272	243
Calgary	37	27	15	89	256	246
Vancouver	34	36	7	75	263	290
San Jose	22	39	16	60	226	295
DUCKS	23	45	10	56	196	320
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
x-Colorado	46	24	6	98	256	210
x-Dallas	42	21	14	98	267	213
x-Minnesota	44	23	10	98	232	209
Winnipeg	43	32	3	89	235	218
Nashville	39	30	8	86	216	227
St. Louis	36	35	7	79	255	288
Arizona	27	38	13	67	216	282
Chicago	25	46	6	56	190	280

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
x-Carolina	50	18	9	109	251	198
x-New Jersey	49	21	8	106	271	217
x-NY Rangers	46	21	11	103	267	210
NY Islanders	39	30	9	87	227	214
Pittsburgh	38	30	10	86	249	254
Washington	34	34	9	77	240	243
Philadelphia	29	35	13	71	209	257
Columbus	24	45	8	56	205	307
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
z-Boston	60	12	5	125	286	166
x-Toronto	46	21	10	102	262	213
x-Tampa Bay	45	27	6	96	270	237
Florida	40	31	7	87	274	261
Buffalo	37	32	7	81	271	278
Ottawa	37	34	7	81	246	254
Detroit	35	33	9	79	231	252
Montreal	30	42	6	66	219	289

x-clinched playoff berth; z-conference

RESULTS

EDMONTON 3 AT DUCKS 1	Nick Bjugstad and Klim Kostin scored second-period goals to lead the Oilers, now within a point of idle Vegas.
AT N.Y. RANGERS 6 TAMPA BAY 3	Chris Kreider and Tyler Motte each scored twice and New York improved to 11-2-2 in its last 15 games.
CALGARY 3 AT WINNIPEG 1	Andrew Mangiapane and Nikita Zadorov each had a goal and assist, and Calgary stayed alive for a wild-card spot.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

KINGS at Vegas, 7 p.m.	Buffalo at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Columbus at New Jersey, 4 p.m.	Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 4 p.m.	Toronto at Boston, 4 p.m.
Washington at Montreal, 4 p.m.	Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m.
Carolina at Nashville, 5 p.m.	N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.	Chicago at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Seattle, 7:30 p.m.	Colorado at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 ∷ LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

CLIPPERS 125, LAKERS 118

Clippers maintaining a sharp edge

Photographs by LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

KAWHI LEONARD and the Clippers took a 19-point halftime lead over the Lakers and LeBron James, who was not pleased with his and his team's effort on a back to back. Leonard scored 17 of his 25 in the first half as James struggled with only three but finished with 33.

Rested group starts fast, builds big lead and cruises to another win over its city rival.

BY ANDREW GREIF

The playoff permutations remain vast. The potential matchups remain multiple. But whether in the play-in tournament or a first-round series, the Clippers and Lakers are assured of playing in the postseason.

The question on which each rival's playoff hopes hinge is who they will be once they get there.

When Clippers coach Tyronn Lue called the rivals' meeting Wednesday at Crypto.com Arena, with each team holding identical records, the "most meaningful" in the series in years, it was a reference to the significance it held on seeding.

Just as meaningful was what the 125-118 Clippers victory might have revealed about each team's ability not only to make the playoffs but advance.

Who controls this rivalry isn't in doubt — the win marking the Clippers' 11th consecutive under Lue against their rival. Norman Powell scored a team-high 27 points off the bench for the Clippers (42-38) and Kawhi Leonard had 25 points.

Yet what happens when these teams face anybody else in the West is anyone's guess. With two games left, the Clippers can still mathematically backslide into the play-in, but they have a 63% chance of winning the fifth seed, according to Playoff Status, which tracks postseason seeding. The Lakers can still finish with a top-six seed but do not control their destiny.

Will the Clippers look like the group that leads the NBA since the All-Star break in catch-and-shoot accuracy on three-pointers, and whose shooting (16 of 36 from three) grew the lead to 24 in the third quarter? Or are they the offense that scored only one basket during eight minutes later in the quarter, the same kind of drought that has seen strong starts over the past week melt into faulty finishes?

In the playoff crucible, will they show the composure that ran their lead back to 20 in the fourth quarter, or the inability to put the game away comfortably, that allowed the Lakers (41-39) to

[See **Rivalry,** B7]

Tired Lakers look sluggish

Ham's preparation for back-to-back set has little effect

BY DAN WOIKE

Overtime, LeBron James said, didn't do his recovering foot any favors. Anthony Davis knew he'd played in only a single back-to-back set once all year. And Austin Reaves knew his sore quad was going to be more of an issue than the shoulder stinger that sent him to the locker room.

Add onto that an extended stay on the runway in Salt Lake City while the plane got de-iced, and the tired, road-weary Lakers didn't get home until the early hours Wednesday morning before their 125-118 loss to the Clippers.

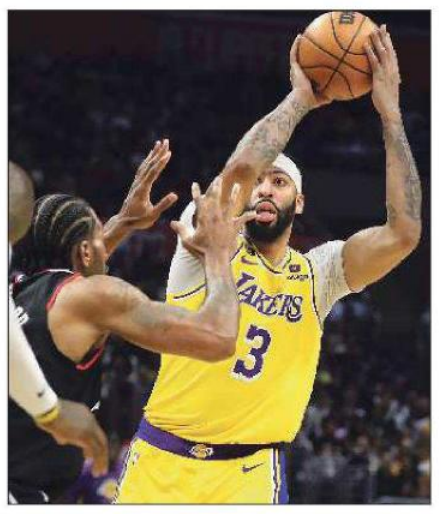
It's why postgame Lakers coach Darvin Ham made it seem like that, even with a huge game waiting for them in Los Angeles, the Lakers might have other priorities. With the loss to the Clippers, the Lakers fell to seventh, holding the tiebreaker over the Pelicans.

"We have a mission of our own," Ham said Tuesday. "It's gonna be a great game, a great matchup. But we have our short-term business that we need to take care of and our long-term business that we need to take care of."

Apparently, though, after consultation with players and medical staff, the short-term and long-term aligned Wednesday, with the Lakers having their complete roster available to face the Clippers.

Ultimately, it didn't matter

[See **Lakers,** B7]



THE LAKERS' Anthony Davis (3) looks for a teammate to pass to as he's pressured by Kawhi Leonard.

Oilers could foil resurgent Kings

HELENE ELLIOTT

If this was a playoff preview, the Kings' postseason journey won't last long. And it might not be through any fault of their own.

The Kings and Edmonton switched spots in the Pacific Division on Tuesday, with the Oilers moving up to second and dropping the Kings to third on the strength of a 3-1 victory at Crypto.com Arena. Two goals from the NHL's most potent power play and a surprisingly sound checking game did the trick for the Oilers and ended an 11-0-2 home point streak for the Kings, who have scored one goal in their last two games against the team they're slotted to play when the playoffs begin the week of April 17.

That's hardly a happy prospect for the Kings, who made upgrades in goal and on defense this season when they acquired Joonas Korpisalo and Vladislav Gavrikov, but still might not be good enough to stop Connor McDavid, the NHL's scoring leader, Leon Draisaitl, who scored his league-leading 31st power play goal Tuesday, and company.

The Oilers are the first team to have four players each score at least 15 power-play goals in a season, with Ryan Nugent-Hopkins reaching that mark at 11:30 of the second period Tuesday for Edmonton's first goal. Stop one power-play threat and a bunch of others pop up, trapping opponents in a futile game of whack-a-mole. They lead the NHL with a 32.6% success rate.

In addition, and maybe the worst news for the Kings, the Oilers have found dependable goaltending in Stuart Skinner, who was 10-1-1 in March. Edmonton defeated the Ducks 3-1 on Wednesday for its sixth straight victory. The Oilers are on an 11-0-1 streak, an impressive way to prepare for the playoffs.

"They're very skilled and they're playing a heavy

[See **Elliott,** B9]

LINDSEY WASSON Associated Press

WINNING ANYWAY

Shohei Ohtani doesn't have his usual command, but it's still enough to deliver a series win. **B8**

Oilers top Ducks to keep rolling

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins reaches 100 points as Edmonton beats the Ducks 3-1 to extend point streak to 12. **B9**

Osborne says she'll be back

The UCLA basketball star announces she will forgo the WNBA draft and return for her fifth year of eligibility. **B6**

THE MASTERS

AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
TODAY-SUNDAY, TV: TODAY, ESPN, NOON

Helping a course for common folk

Exclusive Augusta National will lend a hand in renovating its neighboring facilities.

BY SAM FARMER

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Want to play Augusta?

No problem.

It's $75 per round, cart included. Keep in mind, that's Augusta Municipal Golf Course, about 3½ miles south of Augusta National.

Not every out-of-towner immediately recognizes that distinction. They dial up the course affectionately known as "The Patch," thinking they're calling the most exclusive golf club in the world.

"We have tons of people call, and they just want to know the address so they can come in and buy some merchandise," Andre Lacey, the burly club pro at Augusta Municipal, said in 2019. "They get here and it's like, 'This isn't Augusta National.' So, sorry."

From this point forward, though, the two courses will be linked. Augusta National chairman Fred Ridley announced Wednesday the club is going to support a joint partnership among the Patch, Augusta Technical College and First Tee of Augusta to continue to grow the game.

That means the home of the Masters will be assisting in the renovation of the Patch, in Ridley's words, to "usher in a new era for public golf in our city."

So maybe those callers weren't confused about the merchandise, just ahead of their time.

Holes in one

There were five holes in one on the renovated par-three course Wednesday, including back-to-back aces by Ireland's Seamus Power.

Power holed out on Nos. 8 and 9, delighting the gallery

[See **Masters,** B9]

Los Angeles Times E

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023 ∷ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

CHRISTINA HOUSE Los Angeles Times

LEE SUNG JIN, left, creator of Netflix series "Beef," with its stars and executive producers Ali Wong and Steven Yeun.

Driving home a social critique

The A24-produced 'Beef' stars Ali Wong and Steven Yeun as Angelenos seeking revenge on each other after a road-rage incident

BY MEREDITH BLAKE

It all began at a stoplight in Hollywood a few years ago.

Lee Sung Jin took a few seconds to start moving when the light turned green. The driver behind him responded with disproportionate rage, honking and cursing maniacally, so Lee decided to follow him across town and onto the 10 — which happened to be the direction he was going anyway.

"I justified it by saying, I'm just going to commute home," Lee recalled. "He must have thought, 'Oh, this lunatic is following me for the whole run of the highway.' That's what made me chuckle in my mind: You never know what someone else is going through or what the true nature of the internal state is."

The encounter inspired "Beef," a 10-episode series following the ugly aftermath of a road rage incident between two Angelenos from opposite ends of the socioeconomic divide, played by Ali Wong and Steven Yeun.

Created by Lee and produced by A24, the studio behind this year's Oscar juggernaut "Everything Everywhere All at Once," the series defies easy categorization. A twist-filled, darkly comic thriller about class struggle, the lingering scars of childhood, second-generation immigrants and the daily absurdity of life in Los Angeles, it is layered with eclectic cultural references from angsty Y2K rock — Hoobastank fans, now is your moment — to 16th century Dutch painting and Werner Herzog.

And it all begins in the parking lot of a big-box retailer, where Danny (Yeun), a struggling contractor who seems destined to fail at everything — even suicide — nearly backs his beat-up pickup truck into a white Mercedes SUV [See **'Beef,'** E2]

What's under all the 'Paint'?

TV artist's fans are worried, but the filmmakers and Bob Ross Inc. say don't be.

BY EMILY ZEMLER

Growing up, writer and director Brit McAdams was fascinated by the quietly captivating Bob Ross. He regularly watched Ross' PBS series, "The Joy of Painting," which aired from 1983 to 1994. But over the years McAdams began to wonder what would happen if Ross wasn't the guy he appeared to be.

"He had this incredible power over you," McAdams explains. "If you had someone who was seemingly the nicest person in the world and who had this power over people, what if that person didn't use that power for good? What happens if the person onscreen isn't that person offscreen?"

These questions ultimately led McAdams to create "Paint," a film about a Bob Ross-like local celebrity named Carl Nargle (Owen Wilson) who has a painting show on Vermont public TV. Carl shares several notable traits with Ross: permed hair, a soft-spoken delivery and a penchant for painting bucolic landscapes. He's also a ladies' man who begins to go off the rails when a younger artist, Ambrosia (Ciara Renée), creeps into his spotlight.

But McAdams, who has been developing the idea since 2010, doesn't see "Paint" as a parody of Ross. Neither does Wilson, who prepared for the role by watching YouTube videos of Ross and taking a painting class with a "Certified Ross Instructor," of which there are more than 1,500.

"I don't see it as a parody, and that's not usually a genre that I'm instantly drawn to," Wilson says. "I don't think there's any winking at the audience from the character. No one's ever even laughing in this movie. They're very serious about their lives, as we all are about our hopes and the way things don't work out."

[See **'Paint,'** E6]

How the pieces fell into place for 'the perfect game'

With 'Tetris,' the Game Boy classic with lasting appeal is back in the zeitgeist.

BY TRACY BROWN

The real story behind how Tetris became a video game phenomenon is more compelling than most imagined narratives.

A computer game created by Russian programmer Alexey Pajitnov in the Soviet Union, Tetris eventually hit the burgeoning global market in 1989 as the launch title of Game Boy, a handheld console developed by Japanese company Nintendo, after Dutch American game designer and publisher Henk Rogers doggedly pursued the rights.

Much like the game itself, it's a story that involved a lot of moving pieces that needed to be maneuvered just right in order for its players to achieve success.

This backstory is at the center of "Tetris," out now on Apple TV+ after premiering last month at SXSW.

Directed by Jon S. Baird ("Stan & Ollie") from a script by Noah Pink ("Genius"), the film follows Rogers (portrayed by Taron Egerton) after he is so dazzled by Tetris, which he stumbles upon at a game expo, that he bets everything on its success. Sorting out the complicated situation around the game's rights propels Rogers to Moscow, where he meets and befriends Pajitnov (Nikita Efremov).

"We tried to make [the movie] as truthful as possible in the given circumstances," said Pajitnov during a recent video call. "I was very fascinated with the movie because it was spiritually absolutely truthful. That's exactly what happened to us, emotionally."

But, "there was a lot of Hollywood in there because they squeezed like a year and a half of our lives into two hours," added Rogers, who along with Pajitnov was an executive producer on the film.

[See **Tetris,** E3]

Mesmerizing musical kaleidoscope

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

COMPOSER Steve Reich, left, and conductor Brad Lubman prepare to take a bow after an L.A. Phil Green Umbrella concert at Disney Hall on Saturday.

Steve Reich is as vital as ever with a new composition, book, recordings and more.

MARK SWED
MUSIC CRITIC

Steve Reich's music always, and often spectacularly so, knows where it's going. It may surprise you. Startlingly sudden shifts of meter and/or harmony are a trademark. You might not expect to end up where you finally do. But the scores are impeccably structured. Form is foundational. Compositional technique never falters. Meaning comes out of substance. If you can't feel the pulse, see a doctor.

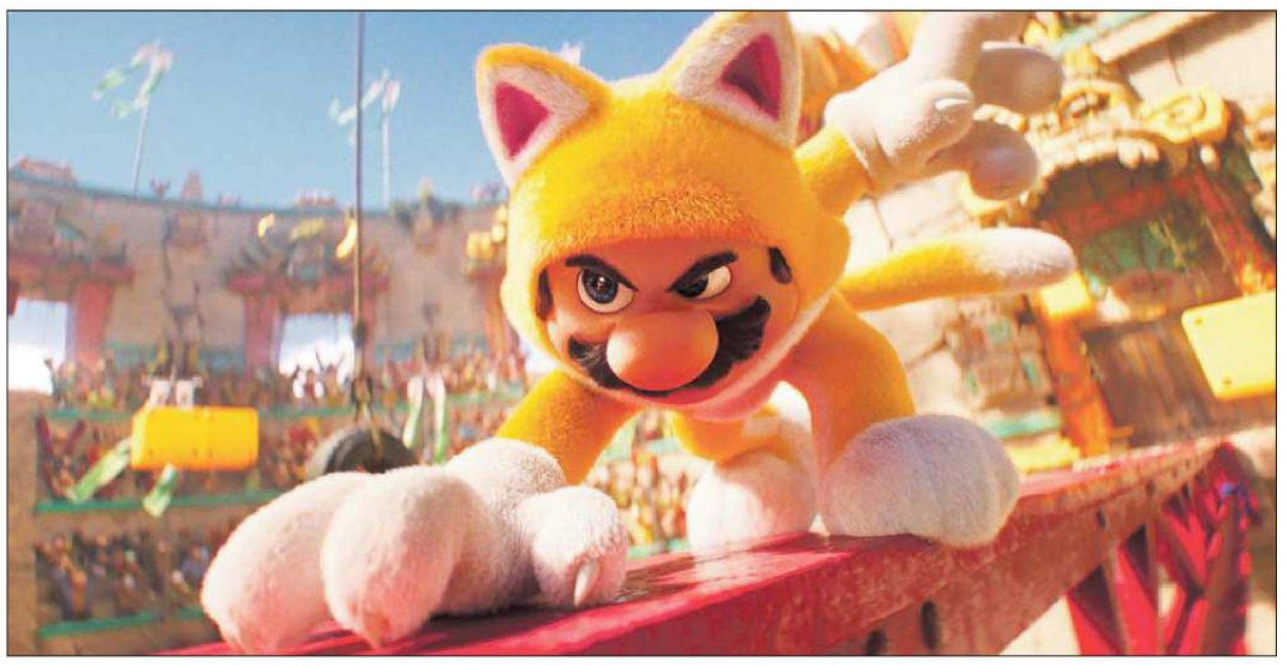
Reich is now 86, and his early classics — such as "Drumming," "Music for 18 Musicians" and "Different Trains" — have been with us for a long time. They have had an enduring influence on modern music (be it classical, pop, jazz and world music), dance and visual art.

All that was apparent Saturday night when the L.A. Phil New Music Group, conducted by Brad Lubman, dedicated a Green Umbrella concert to Reich at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

[See **Reich,** E3]

MOVIE REVIEW

New 'Mario Bros.' isn't a game changer



Nintendo / Illumination Entertainment / Universal Studios

CHRIS PRATT'S vocal performance as Mario is inoffensive but generic in "The Super Mario Bros. Movie."

The Nintendo video game adaptation is family-friendly, mildly amusing and noisy.

By Katie Walsh

Thirty years ago, the very first cinematic adaptation of a video game hit theaters. "Super Mario Bros.," based on the 1985 Nintendo game created by Shigeru Miyamoto, didn't exactly bring the game to life as much as it extrapolated a nightmarish cyberpunk world from its characters. "Max Headroom" directors Rocky Morton and Annabel Jankel were tapped to direct, with Bob Hoskins and John Leguizamo suiting up in the red and green as Mario and Luigi, the plumbers from Brooklyn.

The production was plagued by power struggles, with distributor Disney attempting an 11th-hour swerve into something more kid-friendly than the edgy " 'Blade Runner' for teens" vibe Morton and Jankel brought. Largely considered to be an unmitigated disaster at the time, the film is now a cult classic. But the "Mario" video games are more popular than ever, and Nintendo must have felt it had some unfinished business. Hence a new, animated, family-friendly version of the movie, courtesy of "Minions" production company Illumination Entertainment.

"The Super Mario Bros. Movie" garnered controversy upon announcement of its voice cast, with Chris Pratt due to voice the rotund, mustachioed plumber and the internet preemptively cringing at his potential delivery of Mario's catchphrase, "It's-a me, Mario!" Thankfully, the movie gets that out of the way almost immediately, thanks to a VHS-style TV ad for Mario and Luigi's plumbing business where they affect exaggerated Italian accents. It's a gambit that allows Pratt and Charlie Day, voicing Luigi, to quickly drop the act. But their vocal performances are so unremarkable that it could have been anyone at all.

'The Super Mario Bros. Movie'

Rating: PG, for action and mild violence
Running time: 1 hour, 32 minutes
Playing: In general release

The one vocal performance worth the price of admission is Jack Black as Bowser, the king of the Koopas, an intimidating turtle decked out in spikes who has a penchant for heavy metal and a yearning for Princess Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy). With Black on the mic, expect Bowser to belt a lot of rock ballads — a good third of this movie is basically a Tenacious D concept album.

Written by Matthew Fogel and directed by Aaron Horvath and Michael Jelenic, "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" is mildly amusing, swift, noisy and unrelentingly paced, which is par for the course considering this is the studio that brought us the Minions. At 92 minutes, it stretches a series of gameplay sequences across a barely there hero's journey story. After Mario and Luigi are sucked into a mysterious pipe and transported to the parallel universe of the Mushroom Kingdom, Mario sets out to find and rescue his brother from Bowser with the help of Toad (Keegan-Michael Key) and Princess Peach, who is also attempting to evade Bowser's invasion.

The film hops from set piece to set piece, and the animation is indeed eye-popping — some backgrounds and elements of this world are almost photorealistic. The style also liberates Mario's activities from the flat horizontal landscapes with which we're familiar, putting a more action-packed and dynamic point of view on his leaps and jumps across obstacles as he's trained by the princess. He learns to use his power-ups, faces off with Donkey Kong (Seth Rogen), forging an unlikely alliance, and the crew hits the Rainbow Road in their Mario Karts.

It's all set to a relentless score by Brian Tyler, while '80s needle drops hold together the thin story. A suggestion: We need a moratorium on Bonnie Tyler's "Holding Out for a Hero" for at least five years until the song can regain its ironic magic. There aren't many jokes that hit, but the cutely nihilist Lumalee (Juliet Jelenic) receives the most laughs.

Fortunately, this loud, hectic movie doesn't overstay its welcome, but it wouldn't have the material to last a second longer. It's bright, busy, inoffensive and exactly the opposite of the weird, dark, edgy 1993 movie adaptation. That may be better for the business of Mario, but it's not exactly terribly interesting either. "Wahoo!"? Not quite.

Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

Road rage as a vehicle for talking about the class divide

['Beef,' from E1]

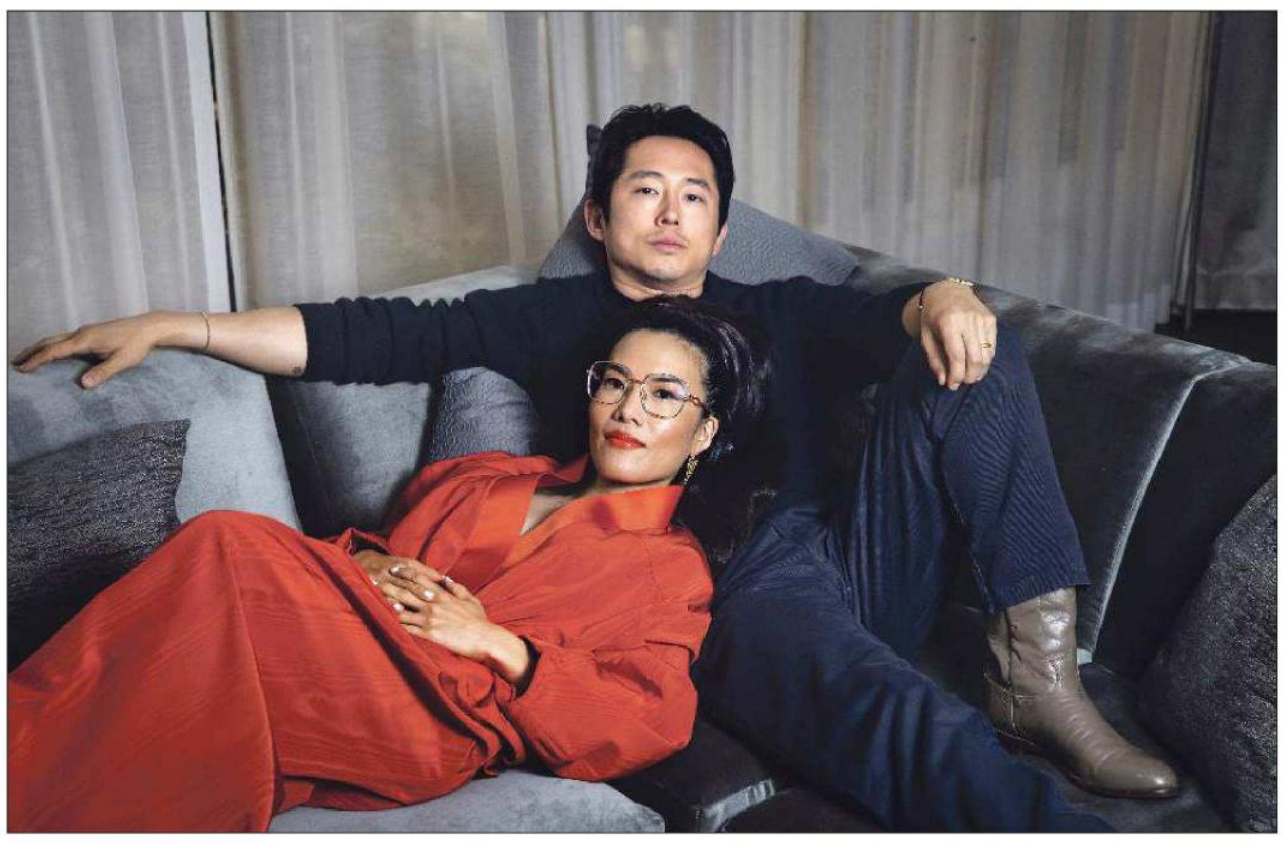
driven by Amy (Wong), a tensely coiled entrepreneur who has a seemingly perfect life. The showdown triggers a mutual quest for revenge that spirals out of control and ultimately reveals how much Amy and Danny actually have in common despite their ferocious antipathy for each other.

"At the core, whether they know it or not, they're both struggling with the same thing, which is this existential void that feels unfillable," said Lee, who had worked with Yeun in the Netflix animated series "Tuca & Bertie" and was looking for another way to collaborate. He pitched Yeun his idea for a series exploring the psychological underpinnings of road rage.

Yeun, who recalled an hours-long conversation with Lee that started with antagonistic motorists and eventually led to God, was intrigued by what he called "the Spider-Man meme of it all."

"I am conscious of the idea that when I'm mad at someone, all the projections I put on that person are a weird reflection back at [myself]," he said. "And that's what usually stops me from engaging further. I'm like, 'Oh, I'm just telling on myself.' "

Danny's frustrations are not hard to understand: Well into his 30s, he lives in a rundown apartment with his younger, crypto-obsessed brother, Paul (Young Mazino), still holds a torch for his high school girlfriend and has strayed from the church that once provided guidance. He is also determined to make enough money to bring his parents, who were forced to return to South Korea after their motel was shut down by the police, back to the United States.



Christina House Los Angeles Times

ALI WONG and Steven Yeun star as L.A. drivers from vastly different backgrounds on Netflix series "Beef."

Danny is "really trapped in this narrative that everyone's out to get him," said Yeun, in a joint interview with Wong. Both are executive producers on the series. "The last straw is this white Mercedes, honking at him for an abnormally long time, flicking him off for doing nothing."

Some of the details of Danny's life are drawn from Yeun's experiences as a self-described "immigrant latchkey kid" with ties to the church.

"What was difficult for me was facing the shame of Danny, making sure I never abandoned Danny, even though I wanted to judge him," said Yeun, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role in "Minari," a very different story about Korean immigrants. "I can also *be* Danny. And I have also *been* Danny. I've had these moments in my life that from the outside could be judged as pathetic, gross or ugly. I had to be like, 'Never bail on Danny.' "

Wong's Amy is more successful by every conceivable metric: She is married to the handsome, doting George (Joseph Lee), has an adorable daughter, June (Remy Holt), lives in a pristine minimalist home and has built her chic plant shop into a major lifestyle brand. But she carries profound but unexpressed resentment over being the family breadwinner while also shouldering much of the parenting burden.

"She is stuck in a maze of her own creation," said Wong. In a telling moment in the pilot, Amy pulls into the garage and receives a flurry of urgent text messages about her job, child and house.

"As women, we all have that moment where we're just, like, bombarded. There's always something, right? But what if there's like 10 things at once?" (Like Wong, Amy has Vietnamese and Chinese heritage.)

Wong's quietly seething performance as Amy — complete with a rictus grin and an armor-like wardrobe of shapeless neutrals — marks a departure for her, a comedian known for bawdy stand-up specials including "Baby Cobra" and "Hard Knock Wife" and the breezy rom-com "Always Be My Maybe." It required her to masturbate with a gun, do her first on-camera sex scene, memorize long monologues that were to be recited in a single take and shoot action sequences in the wilderness. "I felt like Shelley Long in 'Troop Beverly Hills,' " joked Wong, contrasting herself with Yeun, who rose to fame running from zombies on "The Walking Dead." "He's used to having blood and dirt kicked in his face at 6 in the morning."

Wong drew inspiration from a different but equally fraught form of travel: flying. She recalled a time when, as a struggling stand-up comic early in her career, she was in a rush to catch an early-morning flight home and forgot to take a water bottle out of her luggage. When security pulled her aside for a pat-down, she began weeping — not because of the poor TSA agent doing their job but because of everything leading up to that moment. "It was not misplaced anger but misplaced sadness," she said.

Because so much of "Beef" is about the assumptions Danny and Amy make about each other, the characters don't actually share that many scenes together — yet there's palpable tension between them.

Lee likened the writing of their relationship to a musical chord progression that creates longing in the audience. "It's undeniable, once they're together, that their chemistry is electric," he said.

Lee's own road rage incident involved a middle-aged white man, and he'd originally envisioned Yeun's character clashing with "a Stanley Tucci type." Early in the development process, he was catching up with Wong, who also starred in "Tuca & Bertie." As he listened to her "talking about a lot of the harsh truths of life in such a funny, digestible way," Lee had an idea: Maybe it would be more interesting if *she* played Danny's nemesis?

Having two Asian American leads allowed the story to unfold in ways that wouldn't have been possible in a show about a vehicular confrontation with a white man, said Lee. "It doesn't remove the race card, but it pivots it in a very interesting way and opened it up. And it allowed me to home in on the main existential themes, while letting the specificities of these people start to organically bring up some Asian American identity [issues]."

"When you have a predominantly Asian American cast, which is very rare, all the people get to be people," Wong said. "So when you reference who your favorite character is, you won't say, 'Oh, it's the Asian one.' "

While road rage has risen across the country, particularly since the pandemic, the inciting incident in "Beef" may feel especially relatable to Angelenos. Infused with a strong sense of place, both culturally and geographically, "Beef" captures the city in its many permutations, from the moonlit canyons to the clogged freeways. Parts of the series were filmed in Koreatown, including the nightclub Arena. Shooting on location "just adds something to the performances," Lee said, "because there's an authenticity to everything."

Much of the drama centers in the Valley, from the tony climes of Calabasas, where Amy lives, to Danny's modest corner of Reseda. It's all personal to Lee, who bought a house in the Valley a few years ago and would often find himself running errands at the Home Depot in West Hills. He was struck by the extent to which the store was "a hub for the economic divide."

"You have people from Hidden Hills and Calabasas but also from Reseda and Chatsworth, all descending on the same place to get supplies, but there couldn't be much more of a gulf between their social statuses," Lee said. "Those parking lots feel like a bomb waiting to go off sometimes."

Amy and Danny's parking-lot altercation is explosive, but "Beef" makes it difficult to pick a side — and that's the point. "I hope that when audiences watch the show," said Wong, "it's not going to be a landslide for any one team."

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
SPACE ODDITY PG-13 1:20 7:30
RIMINI 1:00 7:10
RODEO 4:20 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R 4:10 PM
THE FORGER 4:00 PM
TEHRANTO 1:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
AIR R 1:10 4:10 7:00
ACIDMAN 1:00 7:30
IN VIAGGIO: THE TRAVELS OF POPE FRANCIS 3:00 PM
A THOUSAND AND ONE R 1:10 4:10 7:00
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:10
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS? 1:20 4:20 7:10
MOVING ON R 5:20 PM
UNZIPPED: AN AUTOPSY OF AMERICAN INEQUALITY 1:30 4:30 7:20

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
AIR R 1:40 4:30 7:20
THE JOURNEY: A MUSIC SPECIAL FROM ANDREA BOCELLI 4:00 PM
A GOOD PERSON R 1:10 4:10 7:10
SPINNING GOLD R 1:00 4:00 7:00
THE LOST KING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
TORI AND LOKITA 3:05 7:30
MOVING ON R 1:00 5:20

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
AIR R 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
THE JOURNEY: A MUSIC SPECIAL FROM ANDREA BOCELLI 4:00 PM
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:10
A GOOD PERSON R 1:20 7:20
HIS ONLY SON PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
A THOUSAND AND ONE R 1:10 4:25 7:30
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 3:55 7:15

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
AIR R 1:20 4:20 7:20
ENYS MEN 12:50 3:05 7:30
SUMMONING SYLVIA R 5:25 PM
A THOUSAND AND ONE R 1:10 4:20
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:50 3:55
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS? 7:00 PM
RETURN TO SEOUL R 4:10 PM
SAM NOW 7:30 PM
STONEWALLING 1:00 7:10

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
AIR R 1:00 4:30 7:30
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
CHRISSY JUDY 7:00 PM
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:10
SPINNING GOLD R 1:00 4:10 7:20
A THOUSAND AND ONE R 1:20 4:20 7:20
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 12:55 3:50 7:15
THE QUIET GIRL PG-13 1:30 4:30

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
AIR R 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE PG 12:55 3:10 5:25 7:40
THE JOURNEY: A MUSIC SPECIAL FROM ANDREA BOCELLI 4:00 PM
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: HONOR AMONG THIEVES PG-13 12:50 4:00 7:10
A THOUSAND AND ONE R 1:20 4:20 7:20
JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 4 R 1:00 7:00

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The puzzle that's behind Tetris' addictive appeal

[**Tetris,** from E1]

Baird describes "Tetris" as a "Cold War thriller on steroids," but at its heart is the friendship between Rogers and Pajitnov, which the pair boast "is still going strong after all these years."

The movie "is really about two people, who on paper should be enemies, but at the end of the day find common ground because they're both human and they both have families and they both love to play," said Pink. "And we need to play more, I believe."

While the story's Cold War setting and political themes appealed to Baird, he was also drawn to "the sort of platonic love story between these two characters."

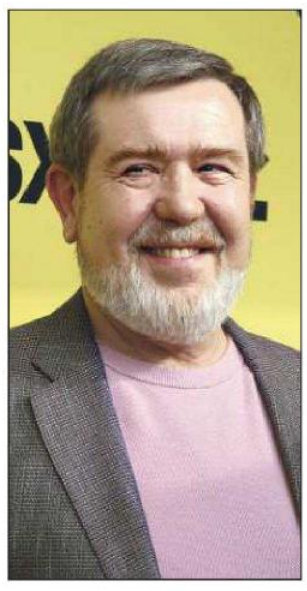
Pajitnov and Rogers are "these polar opposites coming from different parts of the world," said Baird. They're "incredibly different, having very different cultural references and geopolitical references, [in a] story of East and West coming together.... That was what really interested me about it, and it just so happened to be about this famous video game."

This "famous video game," of course, is one of the best-known and best-selling video games ever. And the film's version of Rogers describes it as "the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen."

"This game isn't just addictive," says Rogers in "Tetris." "It stays with you. It's poetry — art and math all working in magical synchronicity. It's the perfect game."

Apple TV+

NIKITA EFREMOV, left, plays Russian Tetris creator Alexey Pajitnov, and Taron Egerton plays Dutch American game designer Henk Rogers in "Tetris."



Jack Plunkett Invision / AP

ALEXEY PAJITNOV was involved in the film.

It's a sentiment that Pink, who grew up playing Tetris with his siblings during road trips, stands by.

"For me, what makes it the perfect game is that it's a puzzle," said Pink, who attributes Tetris' addictive qualities to its simplicity.

"It's like your favorite story that you love to hear over and over again, but every time you hear it, something new comes up. That's Tetris for me. Because you know what blocks are coming, but every time it's a little different, and every time you play, it ends up a little differently."

But "perfection" is a loaded concept, especially if you ask games scholars.

"It encapsulates a lot to say it's the perfect video game," said Tracy Fullerton, a USC professor and the director of its Game Innovation Lab. "Perhaps you could say that it was *a* perfect video game, especially a perfect video game in combination with the Game Boy platform, which I think was the thing that really made Tetris as massive as it was."

Jennifer deWinter, the dean of Lewis College of Science and Letters at Illinois Tech, was more direct.

"There's no such thing as a perfect game," said deWinter. "But if I had to ponder the brilliance of Tetris — and I think that that is a fun thing to ponder — Tetris provides a pattern-based abstraction that allows people to go into a flow state, readily."

Meaning, Tetris draws players in to become so absorbed in the game to the point that outside distractions get tuned out. And that's addictive.

According to Fullerton, Tetris "is one of the best games and continues to be one of the best games ever made" because "it's so satisfying."

And this satisfaction of sorting things out and fitting pieces together, deWinter explained, stems from the fact that "human beings love pattern matching" at any age.

"In terms of this elegant, pared-down, pattern-matching game, Tetris is it," said deWinter. "It's the godfather of all those types of game. And continues its own life to now, [and] it continues to have tremendous influence on other games, either as mini games or as in the casual game revolution and all the pattern-matching games that we start seeing there."

Pajitnov, who developed the first version of Tetris in 1984, was inspired by the puzzle game pentominoes, which involved piecing together certain shapes created by five squares. This original Tetris was a computer game that eventually made its way to arcades and consoles.

As Fullerton and deWinter both note, it was the marriage of Tetris to Game Boy that catapulted both to success.

"I don't think Tetris would have ever become as big as it did had it not been *the* Game Boy game," said deWinter. "What the Game Boy does is it provides everyone a small, cheap, handheld computer game device ... and Tetris becomes the cultural phenomenon that we know, because it's packaged with this platform."

"I played Tetris on Game Boy, and I remember being astonished," said "Tetris" producer Matthew Vaughn. "The technology was mind-blowing back then."

According to the Tetris Co., over 520 million units of Tetris have been sold worldwide, and the game has been downloaded more than 615 million times on mobile devices. There have been numerous scientific studies around Tetris, delving into everything from why the game is addictive to how playing the game affects those with anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder.

And Tetris and Game Boy's pairing was mutually beneficial.

"I think Tetris, in many ways, was responsible for the success of the Game Boy," said Fullerton. "Not just as a child's toy, but as something that business people or older people might carry with them."

It was not until the "Pokémon" series launched in 1996 that the Game Boy had its next blockbuster video game, so it's safe to say a phenomenon with the longevity and widespread appeal of Tetris was significant to the handheld console's success.

Baird admits he is no gamer, but he said that working on "Tetris" changed his perception of the game because it forced him to revisit it.

"It made me play it more so I wouldn't be embarrassed when I actually eventually met Henk and Alexey in person, just in case they challenged me to a game," said Baird. "I've got OCD [obsessive-compulsive disorder], and it really appeals to me, this game, because you compartmentalize everything, and then it disappears."

In the end, as Baird discovered firsthand, whether Tetris is the "perfect" game may be less important than the ways it continues to help people connect, just as it did Pajitnov and Rogers in the late Cold War.

Playing Tetris because he was working on the film, said Baird, "has bonded me closer with a 13-year-old who previously probably wouldn't want to spend that much time with her father playing computer games."

From Steve Reich, a kaleidoscope of amazing patterns

[**Reich,** from E1]

Unfortunately, though, his influence could not serve as a capstone of the orchestra's annual community based, 12-hour new music extravaganza, "Noon to Midnight," as originally planned for the day's closing concert. It fell victim to scheduling and whatnot. But Saturday's Reich concert, which included two important new works, not only stood well alone but also arrived amid a bunch of new Reich recordings and a remarkable book of conversations.

The evening's obvious showstopper was "Reich/Richter," a project between Gerhard Richter and the composer. Working with filmmaker Corinna Belz, the German artist made a mesmeric 40-minute film from a book, "Patterns," of his abstract canvases painted in the 1990s. Richter then turned to the master of musical mesmerism for the movie's soundtrack, to be performed live by a 14-player chamber ensemble of strings, winds and pairs of vibraphones and pianos.

The eye is amazed at Richter digitally dissecting his paintings, reduced to their pixelated essence. Lines of floating colors slowly materialize onto the screen, like a mandala coming to life. Just before resolving into the original paintings, Richter reverses the process. The paintings go back to their original stripes.

If there is anything that defines Reich beyond pulse, it is such patterning. He fractures melodic and rhythmic figures into complex arrays so propulsive that a listener's mind starts to explode. The sensation is first excitement and then, at its best, not ecstasy but rather a seemingly contradictory spirituality.

Reich doesn't follow the film literally, other than maintaining a few necessary timing cues. His patterning has a life of its own. About halfway through, the pulse slows down so much that you barely attend to it. Color fields of harmonies saturate the score. One intense chord after another is grippingly sustained, creating a shimmering quality that pervades the hall. The last section is very short. The bouncing meters hastily return. We can't stay in the mystical wonderland forever, paralyzed by awe. Reich rushes us back to reality as Richter returns to his lines. In Richter, we have resigned, dust-to-dust inevitability. Reich ends with a bang.

What does it all mean? A Los Angeles Philharmonic co-commission, "Reich/Richter" was supposed to have been performed here shortly after it was composed in 2019. That got delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Reich wrote "Traveler's Prayer" for two sopranos, two tenors, two vibraphones, strings and piano.

At a time when no one was going anywhere, Reich turned to the Jewish traveler's prayer, something that might be recited before boarding an airplane, as a trip to possibly other, unknowable realms. Each of the three sections is based on a Hebraic chant — two of which are traditional and one original — and adapted texts from Exodus, Genesis and Psalm 121.

Here, the traveler seeks divine protection. The tone of the score, from first note to last, is sustained sublimity. Nothing is said or indicated of the pandemic. But nothing I've heard comes as close to capturing the sense of strangeness, the changed world in which clock time lost its dominance or the dramatic lessening of our usual distractions that forced us to pay new attention to our surroundings.

For Reich, the chant tunes become sources of fascination. He employs them forward and backward, right side up and the notes upside down, the way the medieval musicians he adores once did (and the way Schoenberg, whom he doesn't adore, also did). He proceeds with the contrapuntal logic he never leaves home without. Yet he also gives up some of his ego to the material, letting it develop with the freedom it needs.

The high voices offer sweetness and cheer. Yet this is relatively slow music throughout, a novelty for Reich, and the pulse, though there, doesn't blow your mind. At the premiere in Amsterdam in 2021, which was streamed live, "Traveler's Prayer" suggested Monteverdi made new. That performance lasted close to 17 minutes.

On Saturday, as interpreted by Lubman and the L.A. Phil musicians (the singers were Leela Subramaniam, Ashley Fabian, Arnold Livingston Geis and Edmond Rodriguez), the timing was close to 12 minutes. Oddly, it still felt like slow music, but it sounded like nothing else old or new. At times, it sounded as if strings could have been the singers, and the singers the strings. The vibraphones and piano added shine. The richness of sound proved heart-stopping prayer. During intermission, I asked Reich about the new tempo. He very much approved.

Reich is no mystic. His music is direct and calculated. You could say the same about Bach, who found the divine in whatever resources he had at hand. "Traveler's Prayer" finds it in Reich's profound response to basic chants and melodies. And the L.A. Phil timing happened to be impeccable, with Passover and Easter at hand. May this become a tradition.

The program began with a joyous performance of a joyous earlier piece, "Double Sextet." Saying that is as much a tribute to Lubman and the L.A. Phil as it is to the composer. Reich has historically had an uneasy relationship with orchestras. The music can seem almost impossible to count. And then there is Reich's love of aggressive amplification, which was modest and warm this time. But unlike few others, the L.A. Phil has been performing his work since the 1980s. And for the younger musicians, his rhythmic demands have become natural and, better still, loving.

As an example of how younger classically trained musicians now turn to him, the Colburn Contemporary Ensemble will perform his hour-long "Music for 18 Musicians" at Zipper Hall on Thursday. As an example of how well the L.A. Phil plays Reich, there is the orchestra's outstanding recent Nonesuch recording of "Runner" and "Music for Ensemble and Orchestra," conducted by Susanna Mälkki.

That joins Colin Currie's cheerful forthcoming recording of "Music for 18 Musicians," Ensemble Links' exuberant take on "Drumming" and the Mivos Quartet's suave survey of Reich's three strings quartet.

And to make sense of it all, there is "Conversations." Rather than an autobiography, the book articulately and bracingly shows Reich engaging in engrossing dialogues with a variety of interviewers, including conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Broadway icon Stephen Sondheim, Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood, Belgian choreographer Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. It's a kaleidoscopic portrait of Reich from 19 angles, all illuminating and all very much him.

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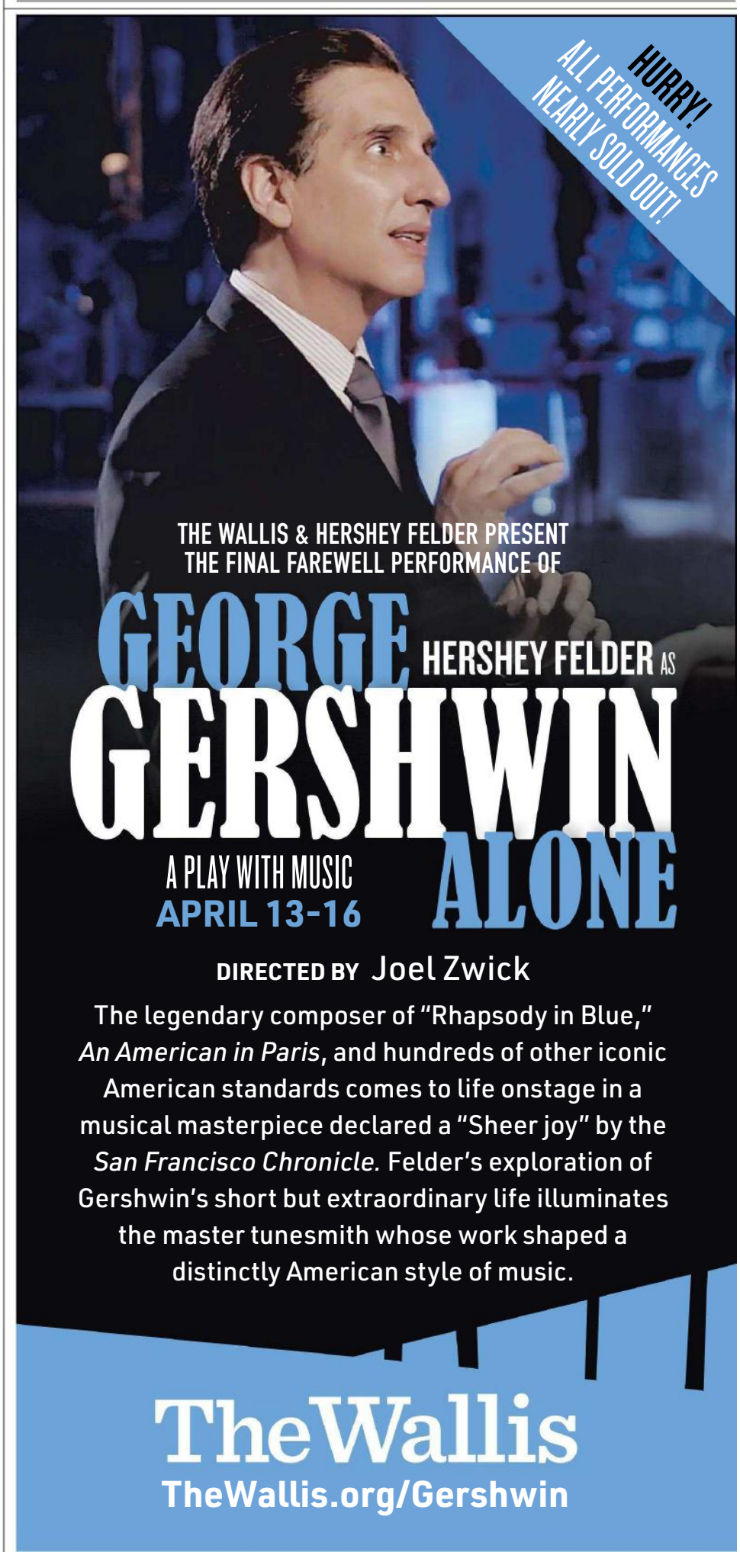
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COMICS

SUDOKU

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		4		1				

Level: Moderate

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1	5	2	7	6	3	9	8	4

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1	6	4	3	2	5
5	3	2	1	6	4

4/6/23

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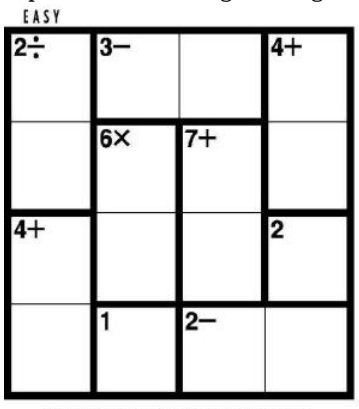
Solutions to Wednesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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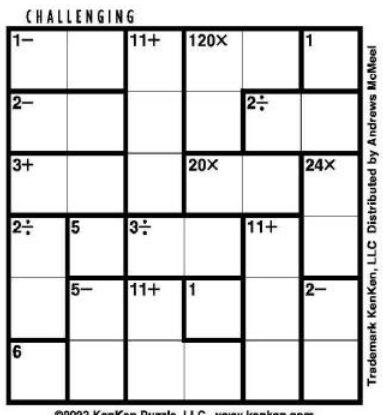
CHALLENGING



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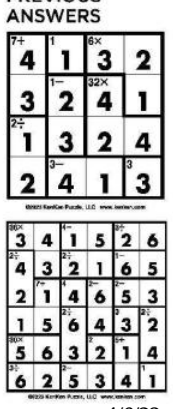
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



4/6/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Getting the exact feedback you desire is a rare occurrence. Provide it for yourself.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't be concerned with what the other person is trying to say. Everything said is bound to other contexts and therefore incomplete.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You may look confident to an outsider, but you're inwardly wondering if you're in over your head. It's OK if you are.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): You'll get an opportunity with a caveat that could make or break the deal for you. What do you really want?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Dig to the root of an issue. It will be different from what you assume it to be.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll walk a fine line between being direct and being harsh and manage to deliver a pointed message with a soft touch.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It's hard to know how to befriend yourself without a model. Whether you need it or not, you'll have such a person today.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You're floating down a quiet stream, but you don't know what kind of rapids await. Soon it will be time to brace yourself for the excitement.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The lines of territory and responsibility are like boundaries on a map. It's easier to agree on where they are in theory. Stay calm and collected and all will work out.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your talent for organizing will extend to projects, items and people.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your priorities have changed, and you'll adjust your thinking to accommodate a new hierarchy.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Some memories come back sweetly and then there are others that never come back at all. You can make sure today's events make the round trip by adding something bold and novel.

Today's birthday (April 6): You'll spend a good amount of time and creativity making your environment functional and cool. Your brilliant ideas about how to redesign the systems and structures will take time to execute, but you'll see amazing differences season to season and eventually wind up in a whole new world of your own making. More highlights: You'll assemble an expert team and take on several projects together. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers: 13, 3, 38, 4 and 17.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Trent H. Evans

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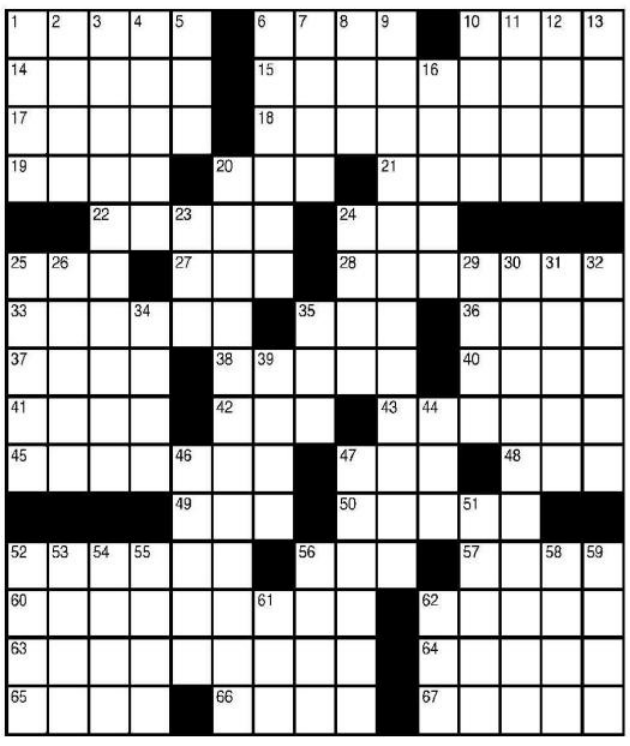

ACROSS

1 Novel units
6 "The Good Place" Emmy nominee Rudolph
10 Missing reveille, perhaps
14 Cornmeal cake similar to a gordita
15 Library of Congress collection
17 One who takes the fall
18 Takes a fall
19 Not to mention
20 USO audience
21 Sings some high notes?
22 Office chore
24 Early ISP
25 Sully
27 Spacewalk initials
28 Informal "No reason"
33 Asylum seeker, perhaps
35 __ Mahal
36 U2 lead singer
37 Singer Celine
38 2013 Literature Nobelist Alice
40 Paintballs, e.g.
41 Request after eating too many jalapeños
42 Defib expert
43 Hall of Famer Abdul-Jabbar
45 NASCAR climax
47 Taste
48 Extra qtrs.
49 Sit-up targets
50 "The Smartest Guys in the Room" company
52 Like "Marriage Story" but not "Toy Story"
56 Trough guy
57 4K display, e.g.
60 "Lay it on me"
62 Greek gathering place
63 Fightin' words
64 Victorious cry
65 Petrol brand
66 "Girl on Fire" singer Alicia
67 Allows to use for a bit

DOWN

1 Dada
2 Rapidly drying Asian sea
3 *"Really?"
4 __ salts
5 "I've been meaning to ask ... "
6 Capital city on Luzon
7 John of "Roots" and "The West Wing"
8 "Hallelujah!"
9 *"Really?"
10 Prilosec target
11 Greet silently
12 Scott Turow book
13 Gal
16 Megastars
20 *"Really?"
23 __ Lingus
24 Barely open
25 Gold __ flour
26 Latina friend
29 Alternative to an uphill climb
30 "The Price Is Right" signature phrase, and an apt description of the answers to the starred clues
31 Yet to be satisfied
32 Goes lickety-split
34 Pesky insect
35 Blast letters
39 Ballpark judges
44 National Poetry mo.
46 Big dipper
47 Quakes
51 "Gosh!"
52 Irritate but good
53 Iowa State city
54 Highlands hats
55 Monster who's in his own world
56 Salmon, to bears
58 Stepped
59 "Off the Wall" sneakers brand
61 Did lunch
62 Leatherwork tool

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H	I	J	A	B	S	■	■	C	A	S	T	O	R	■
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■	■	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	B	E	R	E	T
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T	A	Z	O	■	■	■	T	B	O	L	T	■	■	■
E	R	A	■	V	O	T	E	R	B	O	A	T	E	R
W	A	R	T	I	M	E	■	A	I	R	T	A	X	I
S	T	R	I	V	E	S	■	G	E	N	E	R	A	L
■	S	E	C	A	N	T	■	■	S	E	S	A	M	E

4/6/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

An optimist sees green lights, a pessimist sees red lights. A wise player is colorblind; he focuses on his goal and tries to anticipate trouble. In today's deal, both Souths in a team match played at five diamonds after both Wests tossed in a preemptive jump-overcall. West led the king of hearts.

One South took the ace and optimistically let the queen of trumps ride. East won and led his last heart, and West won and led a third heart. Declarer ruffed with dummy's ace of trumps to avoid an overruff, but East's 10-8 were worth a trick. Down one. In the replay, South was pessimistic about winning a trump finesse; he led low to the ace and returned a trump. East rose with the king and returned a heart, and when West won and led a third heart, East scored his 10 of trumps. Down one again.

Both Souths were unwise: They should let West win the first trick. After they win the next heart, they can attack the trumps in any reasonable way and lose one trump and one heart.

You hold: ♠ K 5 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ A 9 5 4 ♣ A Q J 7. You are the dealer. What is your opening call?

Answer: You have a mandatory opening bid. I believe a slight majority of experts would open one diamond with this pattern. I prefer to open one club, so as to make a fit in either minor suit easier to locate. I would certainly open one club here when the club suit is so much stronger. Lead-direction if the opponents buy the contract is a factor.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 5 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A 9 5 4
♣ A Q J 7

WEST
♠ 7 3
♥ K Q J 10 7 3
♦ 6
♣ 9 8 4 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 4
♥ 9 5
♦ K 10 8
♣ K 10 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6
♥ A 6 2
♦ Q J 7 3 2
♣ 6

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	2 ♥	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♦	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♥ K

Tribune Content Agency

ASK AMY

In-law's 'out-law' dilemma

Dear Amy: I've been married for 36 years. Whenever we see my husband's family, there would be a point when the "family" would be in one room and the "not-family" in another.

A few years ago, one of his sisters was ill and needed help. All the siblings pitched in. She is healthy now, and it made them realize that they want to spend more time together. However, they exclude the "not-family" from these gatherings. They get together three or four times a year. My husband and I moved a distance away a few years ago.

Last year when we traveled for one of these gatherings, I had dinner with a friend and then waited for 30 minutes for my husband to come out of the restaurant, where he was with his siblings! He now says I could have joined them, but I know they don't want anyone but siblings. Should I be more understanding about his time with his siblings?

Not Family

Dear Not Family: I don't think it's that uncommon for siblings to want to get together, and yet there is a balance here where spouses should not be (or feel) deliberately excluded. In my own massive in-law family (13 siblings!), I've formed an attachment to the spouses and we occasionally have our own "out-law" get-togethers when the siblings are hanging together.

No, your husband's siblings should not have had a birthday celebration for him in your town without including you. Your husband is responsible for establishing that he does not leave you behind for special occasions.

On the other hand, I can't imagine waiting in a parking lot, fuming, when you could have simply entered the venue and perhaps joined them for a cup of coffee. You're an adult. You have the responsibility to treat others as you wish to be treated.

Dear Amy: I have a nephew who is only eight years younger than me. We were very close as kids, but after college I haven't seen him much because he was living several states away.

He is now married with kids, and works in the medical field. Last year we were all thrilled when his family moved two hours away.

I had planned a small outdoor party to celebrate my wedding, with 50 guests. With our large family, the guest list was no easy task. I personally gave his wife the invitation at a shower, about three months earlier. I received no response. Nothing at all, not even a Facebook message. I can't help but feel hurt, like I am invisible.

My sister (his mom) told me, the day before the party, that he had just gotten back from a vacation and couldn't make it. That was a year ago.

Is this behavior normal now? (No response to Christmas cards, either.) I am still hurt. I realize I probably shouldn't take it personally, but it is hard not to.

I had hoped his moving closer would mean that we would reconnect. How do I move past this hurt?

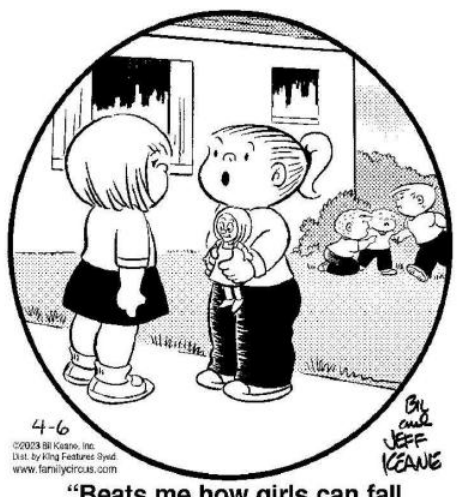
Hurt Bride

Dear Hurt: Polite and timely RSVPs have fallen by the wayside. This is why many hosts are forced to contact those they haven't heard from two weeks before the event. This is not only frustrating but also hurtful.

You should reach out to your nephew. Tell him, "I felt rejected that you and your family never responded to the invitation to my wedding celebration last summer. It's gnawing at me and I'm wondering, should I take this personally?"

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Beats me how girls can fall in love with boys. I have three brothers."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

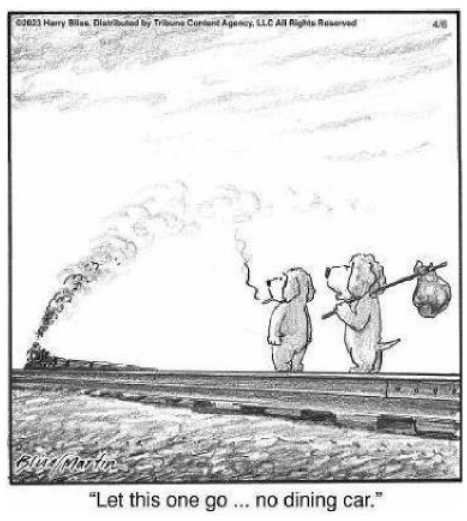
"MY BIRTHDAY PARTIES ARE MUCH MORE FUN. YOURS ARE A BIT SLOW."

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson

"Peer pressure."

BLISS By Harry Bliss

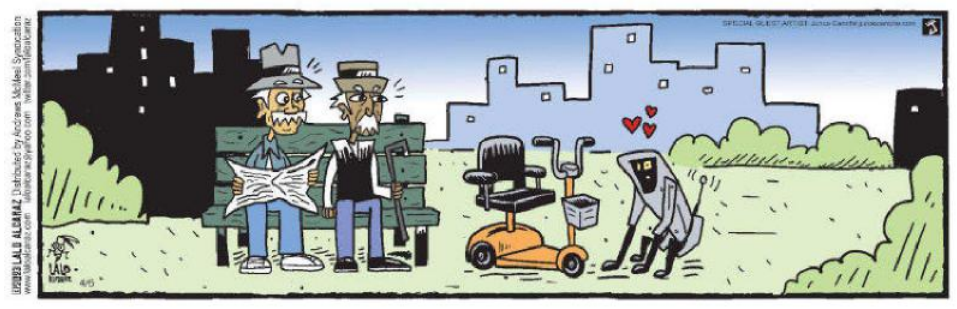


"Let this one go ... no dining car."

SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

COMICS

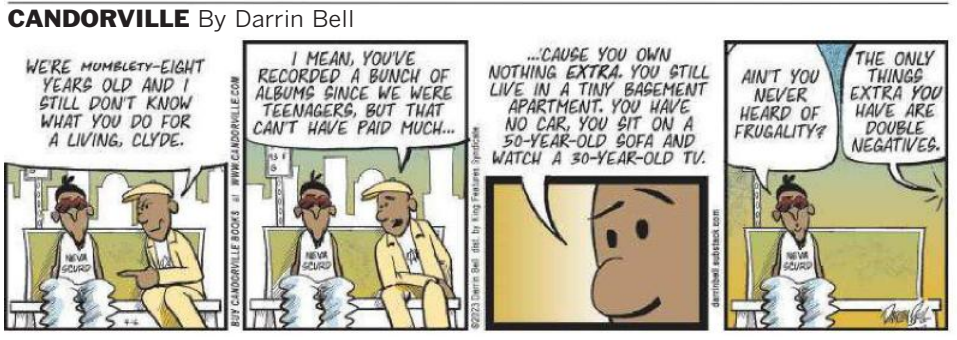
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz



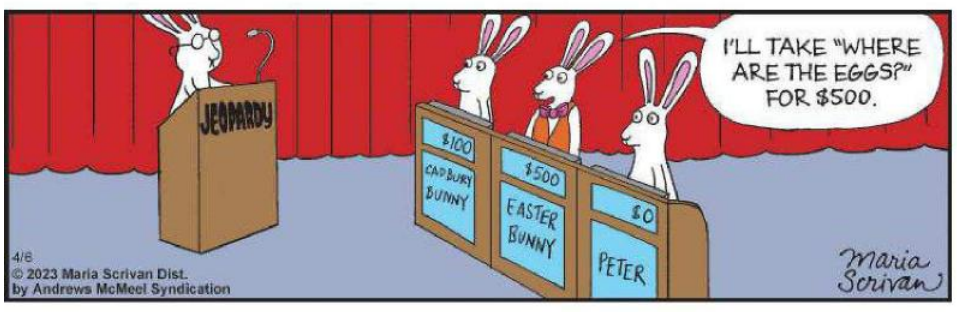
CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

GROUNDED: DAY 4
IF WE'RE GONNA BE CELLMATES, KID, I NEED TO KNOW WHO I'M DEALIN' WITH.
I LED COPPERS ON A HIGH-SPEED CHASE ACROSS TWO STATE LINES.
WHAT'D THEY GET YOU FOR?
OH... UHM, I BROKE MY DAD'S NEW BIG-SCREEN TV PLAYING FOOTBALL IN THE HOUSE.
AH, I SEE.
NO OFFENSE, BUT THEY REALLY OUGHTA START PUTTIN' MONSTERS LIKE YOU UNDER THE JAIL.
NONE TAKEN.

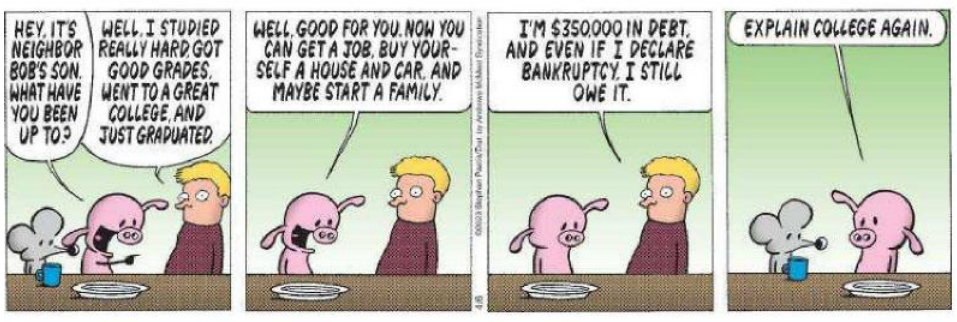
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


WE'RE MUMBLETY-EIGHT YEARS OLD AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING, CLYDE.
I MEAN, YOU'VE RECORDED A BUNCH OF ALBUMS SINCE WE WERE TEENAGERS, BUT THAT CAN'T HAVE PAID MUCH...
...'CAUSE YOU OWN NOTHING EXTRA. YOU STILL LIVE IN A TINY BASEMENT APARTMENT. YOU HAVE NO CAR, YOU SIT ON A 50-YEAR-OLD SOFA AND WATCH A 30-YEAR-OLD TV.
AIN'T YOU NEVER HEARD OF FRUGALITY?
THE ONLY THINGS EXTRA YOU HAVE ARE DOUBLE NEGATIVES.

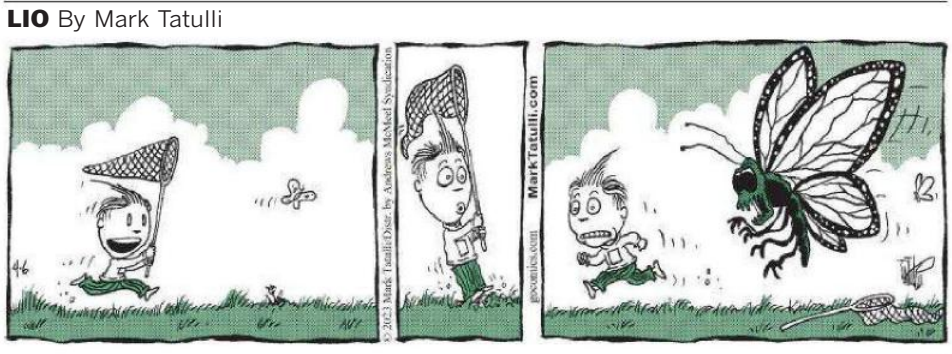
HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


HEY, IT'S NEIGHBOR BOB'S SON. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
WELL, I STUDIED REALLY HARD, GOT GOOD GRADES, WENT TO A GREAT COLLEGE, AND JUST GRADUATED.
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU. NOW YOU CAN GET A JOB, BUY YOURSELF A HOUSE AND CAR, AND MAYBE START A FAMILY.
I'M $350,000 IN DEBT, AND EVEN IF I DECLARE BANKRUPTCY, I STILL OWE IT.
EXPLAIN COLLEGE AGAIN.

LIO By Mark Tatulli

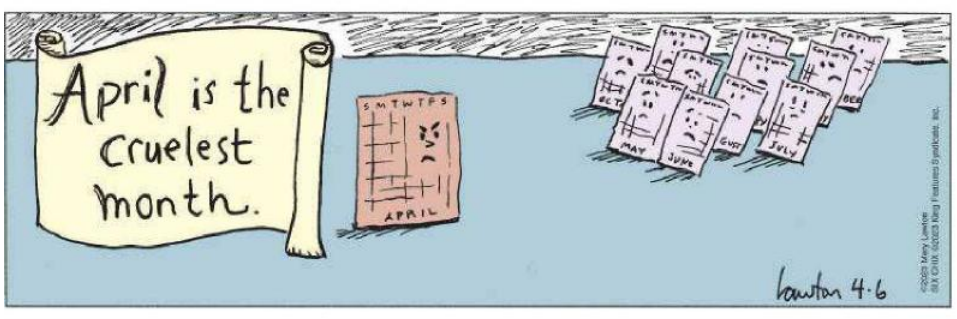


ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

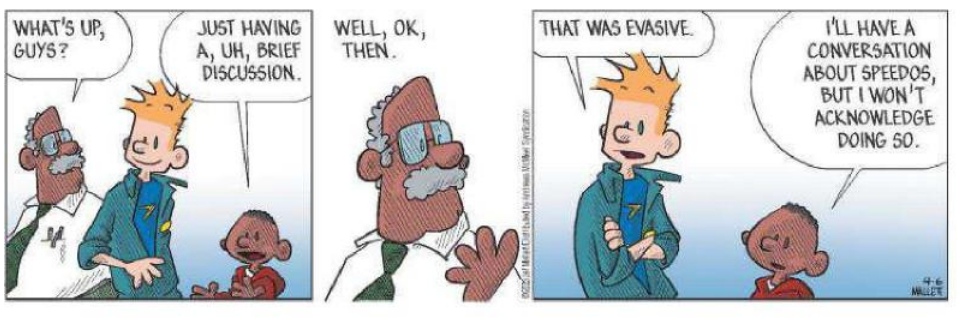
MY NAME IS JEREMY, AND MY DAD MAY BE A DORK.
HI JEREMY.
HE... HE WEARS TUBE SOCKS AND CROCS WITH GYM SHORTS WHEN HE BARBECUES...
...WHILE QUOTING MONTY PYTHON MOVIES!
OOH, THAT'S BAD.
SORRY, DUDE.

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

SIX CHIX By Mary Lawton



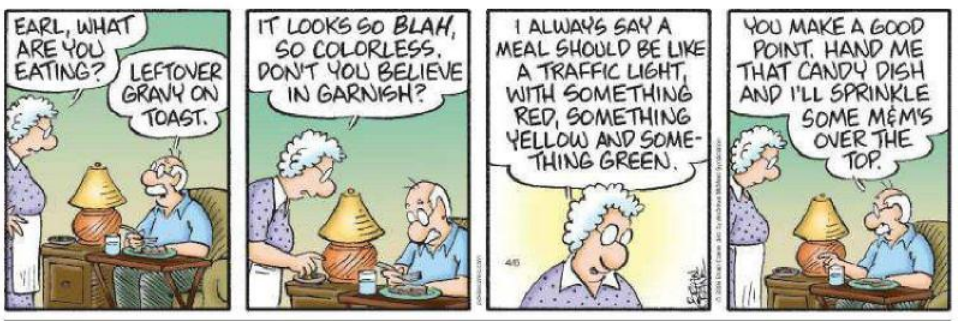
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


WHAT'S UP, GUYS?
JUST HAVING A, UH, BRIEF DISCUSSION.
WELL, OK, THEN.
THAT WAS EVASIVE.
I'LL HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT SPEEDOS, BUT I WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE DOING SO.

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley

THE LOWERED BAR AMUSEMENT PARK
CURTAIL YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN BOARDING
TUNNEL of GETTING ALONG
WILEY ©2023 WILEY INK, LTD 4-6
GOCOMICS.COM/NONSEQUITUR

PICKLES By Brian Crane


EARL, WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
LEFTOVER GRAVY ON TOAST.
IT LOOKS SO BLAH, SO COLORLESS. DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN GARNISH?
I ALWAYS SAY A MEAL SHOULD BE LIKE A TRAFFIC LIGHT, WITH SOMETHING RED, SOMETHING YELLOW AND SOMETHING GREEN.
YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT. HAND ME THAT CANDY DISH AND I'LL SPRINKLE SOME M&M'S OVER THE TOP.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

WHAT IF WE PUT HARDWOOD FLOORING IN HERE INSTEAD OF CARPET?
NO BRAKES! NO BRAKES!
WE'D BE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS AT THE E.R.
NEVER MIND.

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

SOMEONE IS BURNING A SCENTED CANDLE IN THIS HOSPITAL!
NOT LIKELY, NICOLE.
BURNING CANDLES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!
WOW... SIX FLIGHTS UP AND WAY DOWN THE HALL!
MY NOSE KNOWS SCENTED CANDLES!
SNF SNF

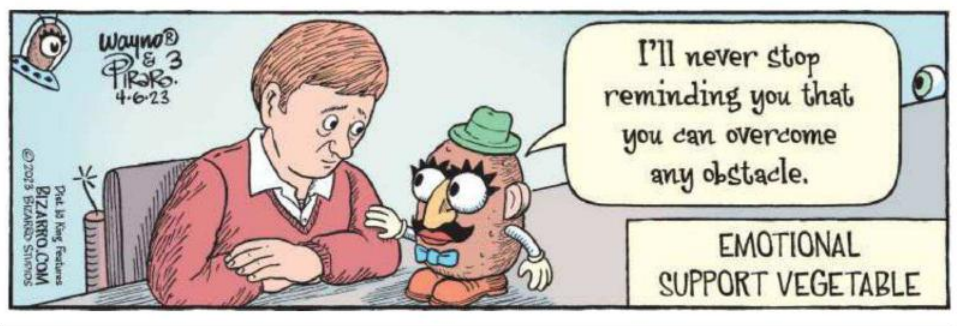
MACANUDO By Liniers

BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

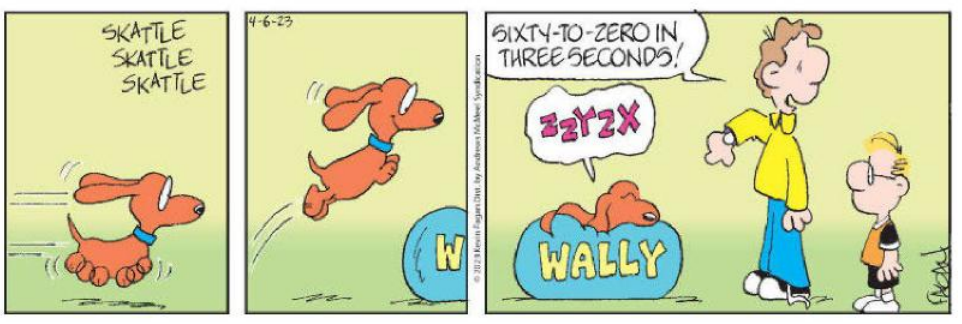
BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

STEVE - I DON'T WANT YOU TO RETIRE SO YOU CAN MOVE TO PARIS WITH ME
I MEAN... I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'M GOING TO PARIS YET!
SO WHAT? EVEN IF YOU DON'T MOVE TO PARIS... RETIRING MEANS WE COULD FINALLY BE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME
... ALL THE TIME?

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro


Wayno & Piraro 4-6-23
I'll never stop reminding you that you can overcome any obstacle.
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT VEGETABLE
BIZARRO.COM

DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan



MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

SNOOPY, I HAVE A GREAT IDEA!
NOW THAT YOUR CAST IS OFF, WHY DON'T WE HANG IT IN OUR RECREATION ROOM AS KIND OF A TROPHY?
TOO LATE... I ALREADY THREW IT AT THE CAT NEXT DOOR...
BONK!
HOWEVER, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO..
SCHULZ

Film's portrait of a painter is meant with 'love'

['Paint,' from E1]

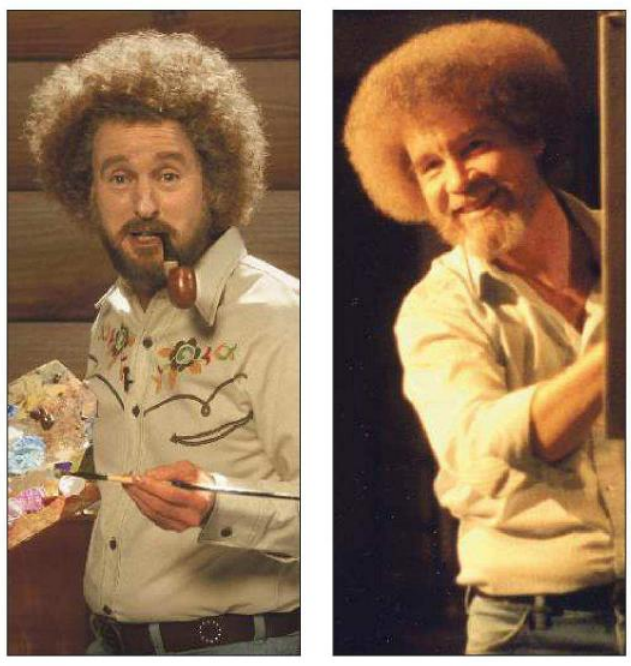
Tonally, "Paint," which opens Friday, may not be a parody, but by legal standards it is. Although Carl does work for a PBS station, in the film that stands for the "Public Broadcasting Syndicate." And because Carl Nargle is fictional, no permission was required from Bob Ross Inc. In fact, the filmmakers didn't reach out, although the company is aware of the film.

Bob Ross Inc., which sells licensed products, runs the instructor program and generally handles Ross' legacy, receives around 100 calls each day on its hotline. Six phone operators are available to chat with fans or to answer questions, and when the trailer dropped there were some concerned calls. People were especially upset about the scene in which Carl steals newspapers off lawns.

"Our fans are ferociously loyal to us," says Joan Kowalski, president of Bob Ross Inc. "A lot of Bob Ross fans are not on the internet. They're not emailing. They're not on social media. They will call us and tell us if something is out of place. With the newspapers there were people saying, 'I just know that Bob wouldn't do that.' And we were like, 'No, no, no, it's all good.' "

Kowalski, who describes the film as "a cute take on the characteristics of Bob," welcomes anything that raises Ross' profile in the zeitgeist.

Bob Ross Inc. has embraced the resurgence of popularity around the painter. In 2015, the company inked a deal with Twitch to allow the channel to stream all 403 episodes of "The Joy of Painting." It designs T-shirts targeted to college students. It even approved the use of Ross' voice on Lil Yachty's recent song "We Saw the Sun!"



IFC Films, left; Netflix

WHICH IS the real Bob Ross? Not Owen Wilson, left, as Carl Nargle in "Paint." Ross is on the right.

In general, the love for Ross seems to be growing, which Kowalski attributes to his singular philosophy.

"Bob Ross ruled public television," she says. "It was mostly for viewers to learn how to paint, but his personality and his attitude came through even back then. Now, it's so much more. It's not only the painting — there's this heightened ability that he's got to really touch people with what he's saying. He's a much more well-rounded icon than he used to be."

In creating Carl Nargle, Wilson wanted to tap into that quality. Visually, Wilson and McAdams referenced both Ross and Gordon Lightfoot, but much of Carl's presence is drawn from Ross.

"It's nice when someone like that can live on because it's not as easy to explain his popularity," Wilson says. "The best answer I can give, having thought about it some, is we all remember having a great teacher and it's rare. And Bob Ross was a great teacher — somebody reassuring and supportive and teaching you something good. Painting feels good to our mind and has a meditative quality. I think it says something nice about us as a culture that someone like Bob Ross can endure and be so popular."

For McAdams, "Paint" is a good-natured tribute. He has heard from worried fans but hopes they will understand that it all comes from a positive place. Much like Ross himself.

"I love that people are looking to protect Bob Ross," McAdams says. "And I love Bob Ross. He was a safe place [for me] as a kid. I don't think I've ever turned off a Bob Ross painting show. But this is its own world and there's no making fun of Bob Ross here. There's nothing but love."

This anchor won't sit still

Sara Sidner brings reporting bona fides to her new job on 'CNN News Central.'

By Stephen Battaglio

There isn't much that scares veteran CNN correspondent Sara Sidner.

As Moammar Kadafi's regime fell in Libya in 2011, Sidner coolly and methodically reported on the celebration in the streets of Tripoli while trying to avoid the bullets and shells being sprayed into the air. ("Please don't shoot, sir," she said as if it were a minor distraction.)

When most of the country was in lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Sidner spent 176 days on the road, many of them in Minneapolis covering the murder of George Floyd by police. She became a fixture during the protests and facilitated the first conversation between the city's police chief and Floyd's family.

Sidner recently returned from Turkey after watching families grieve over the massive loss of life in the catastrophic earthquakes that struck the region.

"I don't think I've ever seen such destruction on a large scale and I have been doing this a minute," Sidner said in an interview from CNN headquarters in New York.

Sidner, 50, remains a steady, authoritative presence when surrounded by chaos. But she admits to being a bit anxious about her new assignment that began Monday when she became part of the troika of anchors on CNN's revamped daytime lineup, the latest in a series of changes the network has made under Chief Executive Chris Licht.

"I'm nervous because that's me," Sidner said. "I know nobody thinks being in a studio is scary, but for me it is because it is new and different. Sometimes I need to take a risk."

Sidner joined John Berman and Kate Bolduan, already familiar to the network's daytime viewers, on "CNN News Central," a three-hour block airing from 6 to 9 a.m. Pacific. (A second block launches later this month, with Jim Sciutto, Brianna Keilar and Boris Sanchez.)

Over the long term, "CNN News Central" is another step by Licht to reinvent the venerable news brand for its owner, Warner Bros. Discovery. He has tried to move it to the political center, as his bosses believe it swayed too far left during the Trump years. At the same time, he's dealt with cost-cutting pressures created by the parent company's debt.

It's been a tough road. CNN's ratings declined 40% in the coveted 25-to-54 age group during the first quarter compared with a year ago, according to Nielsen data. (During the same period in 2022, the network was covering the initial weeks of Russia's Ukraine invasion.)

Nonetheless, Licht has the backing of Warner Bros. Discovery Chief Executive David Zaslav, who has urged patience for the network's new positioning, even if it means lower ratings in the short run.

While prime time is when the most viewers are available to watch, influential people in business and government have CNN on their office screens all day. Licht said the network's global resources deserved a better showcase during the daytime.

The network created a new studio for "CNN News Central" utilizing large screens that cover the walls. The anchors spend little time behind desks while interacting with larger-than-life images of correspondents around the world as stories are developing.

"Mama needs some new shoes because we're going to be standing for three hours for the most part," Sidner said.

Licht said he wanted Sidner as part of "CNN News Central" because of her energy, experience in the field, and "genuine excitement around the news, as opposed to some [people] that are brought on because they have general excitement about the left or the right."

"I want people that are excited about the news and can deliver that energy into programming," Licht said.

Based on its first day, "CNN News Central" does not appear to be a major reinvention of TV news. The network's election coverage with its famous "magic wall" has a similar feel. Fox News also used a wide open set for "Shepard Smith Reporting," when the anchor was still with the network.

The well-traveled Sidner represents CNN's reporting reach. She acknowledges that some colleagues have joked how her arrival in a remote location is never a good sign.

"It's like, 'Uh-oh, if she shows up, something bad went down or was about to happen,' " she said. "But I'm willing to break my heart again and be around people whose hearts are broken. I care about the people I talk to. I'm still in touch with some of those I reported on in really horrible scenarios."

Jonathan Klein, a former CNN president, said Sidner is the right messenger for Licht's vision to make a definitive news source without a political bent.

"She's very authentic," Klein said. "She's not performing. She's being herself and viewers can sense that."

A longtime Los Angeles resident, she arrived in New York this year to host a show on CNN+, the streaming service Warner Bros. Discovery shut down less than two weeks after its launch. The service is gone, but Sidner was talked into sticking around to be a key ingredient in the latest experiment under Licht, who took over the network last year.

"I came here to do something different anyway," Sidner said. "So this is an extension of that."

She admits it's not easy to process the trauma she sees around her in places like India, Afghanistan and other hot spots she's dropped into. Still, it will be an adjustment to be contained in a studio for the first time in her 15 years at CNN.

"I'm still a girl in the streets," she said. "I get my juice from being around my people and I will continue to do some of that."

Los Angeles Times
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AUTHORS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

ROBIN ARZÓN
Author of
"Strong Baby"
Sunday, April 23

JOAN BAEZ
Author of "Am I Pretty When I Fly? An Album of Upside Down Drawings"
Sunday, April 23

RACHEL LINDSAY
Author of
"Real Love"
Saturday, April 22

WALTER MOSLEY
Author of
"Every Man a King"
Sunday, April 23

DANNY PELLEGRINO
Author of
"How Do I Un-Remember This? Unfortunately True Stories"
Saturday, April 22

KATIE PORTER
Author of
"I Swear: Politics Is Messier Than My Minivan"
Sunday, April 23

MARYTZA K. RUBIO
Author of
"Maria, Maria & Other Stories"
Saturday, April 22

JOE TROHMAN
Author of
"None of this Rocks: A Memoir"
Sunday, April 23

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